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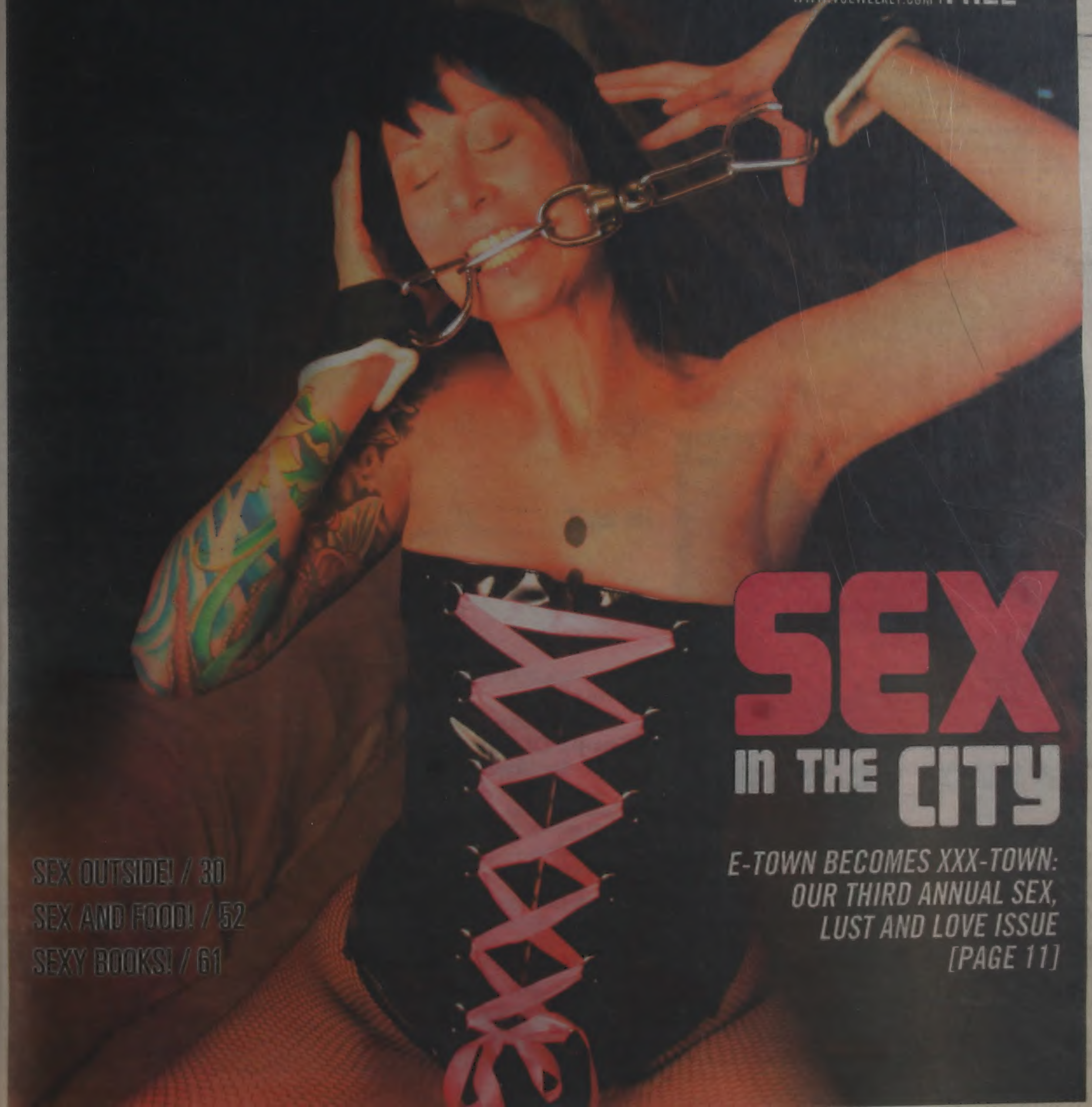

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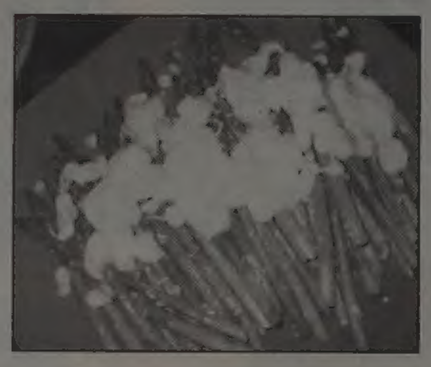

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Bringin' sexy back (hey!)

ROSS MOROZ / ross@vueweekly.com

An admission: as we put together this week's paper, our third annual Sex, Lust and Love issue, the staff here at *Vue Weekly* realized we were engaging in far more editorial discussions (okay, arguments) than we have over any issue in recent memory.

To be honest, this strikes me as a little ludicrous: as an alternative newsweekly, we routinely tackle political and ethical topics that ought to be far more controversial than something as universal and pervasive as sex. Why is it that when we are defending the civil rights of criminals, championing non-traditional families, questioning the prohibition of recreational drugs and agitating for more visibility and acceptance of the queer community—all supposedly "hot button" issues we address on a regular basis—we rarely hesitate even momentarily, while meanwhile we find ourselves fretting about whether the images and stories included in this issue are suitably appropriate or tasteful or non-exploitative?

It occurs to me that perhaps this is as good a defence as any for what is presented on the following pages. The role of independent and alternative media is to challenge the status quo, to push the boundaries and illuminate the edges that traditional corporate media will not—and, for various reasons, largely cannot—address.

One of those reasons is, of course, a desire to not offend or upset readers, a concern we share. We acknowledge that a lot of people have absolutely no desire to see images or read articles as frank and as graphic as some of the material in this issue, so to them we certainly offer a warning about what lies ahead and encourage appropriate discretion. However we are also pretty confident that a much greater percentage of our readership will find this edition of *Vue* entertaining, thought provoking and even a little educational, from the (admittedly insightful) irreverence of our third annual sex survey to reports about topics as varied as aphrodisiacs and sex addiction, from the Islamic tradition of temporary marriage to some tips for *al fresco* nookie.

We are, as always, incredibly curious to hear anything our readers have to say about any part of *Vue*, so don't hesitate to get in touch. Anyone choosing to enjoy this issue of *Vue* will certainly see and read things they would never encounter in a major, chain-owned daily, but that's, well, kind of the point—just like it is every week. v

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Close encounters of the scientific kind

JOEL KELLY / joel@vueweeky.com

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Despite its perceived association with kooks and conspiracy theorists, there is an active and fascinating field of research that uses UFOs and extraterrestrial life as a jumping point, which is the focus of a conference on UFOs held this coming weekend at the Telus World of Science.

Dr Jaymie Matthews, a researcher at the University of British Columbia, will deliver a keynote talk on his work on extrasolar planets—the search for planets outside our solar system—at the conference. His findings could point us to other planets very similar to Earth, a good starting point for any search for sentient life. However, don't count him in with those who think Elvis was really abducted just yet.

"Well, if there is life elsewhere, they are almost certainly going to be living on planets possibly like our own," he explained. "But the fundamental reason we do this work is to teach us more about our own backyard. We study distant worlds that seem exotic because they teach more about our own sun. We're putting our own solar system in context."

Frank Florian, conference organizer and director of Space Sciences at the science centre, says that too often reports of UFOs are ignored as fantasy, and in doing so many people miss out on the chance to learn more about atmospheric phenomena—even if the UFO turns out to be something easily explainable.

"I think sometimes people just get the wrong impression of UFOs. I wouldn't say it's outright negativity, but some people just scoff it off and laugh," he said.

THE FIELD DOES HAVE its fair share of controversial figures—the conference will also feature talks from Stanton Friedman and Jesse Marcel Jr, two prominent figures associated with the alleged UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico. Friedman, in particular, was the first civilian to document the now-famous incident and maintains that the US government holds alien spacecraft and remains in custody.

Matthews is skeptical of UFO researchers who claim to have uncovered a far-reaching alien conspiracy.

"It's not that scientists are against the idea of life being elsewhere, it's just that there is a lack of convincing evidence," Matthews said. He attributes the popularity of belief in alien visitors to the fact that UFOs have become entrenched in our collective culture.

"If you look at the *Weekly World News*, you'd think we were the Grand Central Station of the universe," he said. "It's part of our collective consciousness that ET is already here."

Part of the issue may be that we just don't look, well, up, enough, according to Matthews. "It's not part of our lives to look up into the skies," he explained. "They don't understand what they're seeing, and I can't interpret it based on their description.

"I just don't see the evidence," he repeated. "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. Anyway, it doesn't make sense to me why governments want to cover it up. Governments are horrible at keeping secrets."

"If there's anyone in the world who would want to meet an alien, it's an astronomer," he concluded. "I would love these aliens to come and talk to me." v

Why is avoiding pregnancy such a hard pill to swallow?

VUE RECOUNTS SOCIETY'S COMPLICATED HISTORY OF MAKING LOVE WITHOUT MAKING BABIES

CONNIE HOWARD / well@vueweekly.com

From 17th century French methods of brandy-soaked sponges, to early 20th century olive-oil-soaked sponges and cocoa butter/boric acid recipes for which women paid $50, to the giant breakthrough pill of the 1960s, to the modern mini pill and the possibility of a male pill, we've come a long way. One thing is clear—women have been trying to control conception for a very long time, and have overcome more than a little resistance along the way.

Birth control clinics in the 1930s distributed foams, diaphragms and condoms only to women who were married with a minimum of two children, and drug store owners in 1960 could still be fined for distributing condoms. And though the pill became available in the early '60s, contraception wasn't legalized until 1969. Doctors, however, had by then been prescribing it for close to a decade, though ostensibly only for menstrual irregularities and severe cramping.

The first pill, Enovid, with its built-in overdose, caused thousands of blood clots and strokes before we figured out we only needed a fraction of the dose it delivered for effective contraception. Modern pills, which deliver about a tenth the level of hormones, are considered safe by most, though not by all.

One thing almost everyone agrees on is that the pill and its cousins are an effective form of contraception—anywhere from 92 to 99 per cent effective. But whether we're talking about the combo pill or the mini pill, the Patch, Depo Provera shots, the Nuvoring or the newly-approved Seasonale, we're talking about tampering with a woman's natural hormonal state, which comes with some risk. And we're also still talking about opposition, though the loudest opposition now comes from new quarters, from people anything but anti-sexual freedom or anti-feminist.

MOST OPPOSITION TO birth control has historically been based primarily on philosophy, the argument being that effective birth control promotes immoral and liberal attitudes toward sex. But the idea of hormonal contraception, now both widely accepted and even pushed by mainstream medicine and pharmaceutical companies, is now being opposed by women themselves—women tired of being expected to artificially override their natural hormone states, and women sick of both the immediate effects and the long-term risks associated with doing so.

"Women are so ready for options in birth control," said Megan Lalonde, a holistic reproductive health practitioner with Justisse Healthworks here in Edmonton.

"We work with a physician who supports choice for women, and see women of all ages, women in their late teens to those in perimenopause," she explained. "Some have never been on the pill and prefer not to take oral contraceptives, others can't be on it because of familial health histories, and many just don't like how being on the pill makes them feel."

For many years women have routinely been told by their doctors that the pill is the only truly reliable option for birth control. And though things are changing, Megan pointed out that "women are still too often being shamed by their doctors for going off oral contraception because of its side-effects."

Most doctors and pharmacists insist the chemicals found in the pill are very similar to the hormones produced by our own bodies and are very safe, though the pharmacist at my local drug store couldn't explain to me why we so readily consider the pill safe when the hormone levels delivered by even low-dose pills are actually higher than those delivered by standard hormone replacement therapy—the risks of which have received much attention in recent years.

But not all health professionals are comfortable with the idea of synthetic hormones. "Their chemical structure is different from the hormones produced by our bodies, and so is their action in our bodies," said local alternative health practitioner Cathy Weigle. "What they do is override our own sensitively balanced endocrine systems, which can have far-reaching effects."

Pharmacists who provide bio-identical hormones for menopausal women agree that in order for a hormone to fully replicate the function of our own, the chemical structure must match exactly—and synthetics don't.

Combination pills work by suppressing our bodies' own hormone production and feedback cycle, and by artificially controlling hormones at levels high enough to suppress ovulation. Estrogen/progestin combination methods include varying doses of daily pills,

NEWS | HEALTH

the Orthoevra patch, the Nuvoring and Seasonale. The well-marketed Orthoevra patch delivers the convenience of once-a-week changes over daily pill-popping but delivers more estrogen than low-dose combo pills. The Nuvoring delivers estrogen internally over a period of three weeks, and the controversial new kid on the block, Seasonale, which does require daily pill-popping, comes with the promise of only four periods a year.

The advantages of estrogen/progestin combinations generally cited are alleviation of severe menstrual symptoms or acne and regular cycles. (And with Seasonale, only four per year; with the 365-day pill Lybrel now on the horizon, none at all). Combo pills can also help prevent bone loss and come with a slight decrease in risk of ovarian and uterine cancer. But they also come with a daunting list of disadvantages.

PROTRACTED PERIODS OF elevated hormone levels bring an increased risk of cervical abnormalities and, according to the Canadian Cancer Society, an increased risk of breast, cervical and liver cancer, though Planned Parenthood says a link to cancer has not been shown.

Combination pills also come with an increased risk of blood clots, heart attack and stroke, especially in those who smoke, though Planned Parenthood says this risk is limited to smokers only and primarily to higher-dose estrogen formulas such as the patch. Combo pills also come with the fairly common side effects of depression, nausea, headaches and reduced libido, and with the fairly rare (though I've seen it in a friend) effect of darkened skin on the upper lip and under the eyes, which can be permanent.

Hormonal birth control has also been shown to cause a number of key nutritional deficiencies, which can have far-reaching health effects. And there is little disagreement that synthetic estrogen in the pill is less easily metabolized than other hormones, which puts significant stress on our livers.

Research published in the Journal of Sexual Medicine last year showed reduced bio-available testosterone in women while on the pill, and persisting well after stopping the pill—which just may explain the not-so-little irony of decreased sexual desire many women experience with oral contraception.

Progestin-only options include the mini pill, Depo-Provera and Norplant, which work mainly by making things difficult for sperm rather than by preventing ovulation. The mini pill is tolerated well by some who don't tolerate combination pills, but both the quarterly injection Depo-Provera, which has already been embroiled in a class-action lawsuit, and Norplant, a set of capsules surgically implanted under the skin of the upper arm and replaced every five years, seem to come with more trouble than benefit.

The mini pill comes with a slightly higher failure rate than combo pills, mostly due to its time sensitivity—a pill missed by three hours can cancel protection, which is a problem for travellers and partying types with irregular schedules. And all progestin-only options come with the very real risk of osteoporosis, as well as the short-term side effects of intermittent and unpredictable bleeding, headaches, acne, weight gain and irritability. (Men have been known to quip that the main reason progestin-only options work lies in their ability to make women irritable.)

Despite its list of problems, the pill is still popular with many women, but especially with the doctors who encourage its use—and with men. One young man, in summing up the attitude of his peers, said, "There are two kinds of women, those on the pill and those not." It's not hard to guess what they prefer; based on what I hear from the young women I know, the pressure to be on it is significant.

THE PILL'S POPULARITY with doctors lies in its reliability, though there is yet another energy driving it. Not all options in birth control are patentable, and those who profit from hormonal contraception have more than a little influence. When sales of hormone replacement drugs for menopausal women dropped because women began turning to pharmacists willing to compound bio-identical hormones for them, the drug company Wyeth filed complaints against the compounding pharmacies.

I asked Weigle if she'd recommend the pill for her daughter. Her answer was a pretty quick and definite no.

"There are other safe and effective options out there," she said, "and fertility awareness education will empower women much more than the pill has."

The tension between pharmaceutically oriented doctors and women becoming aware of the consequences of disturbing their very finely tuned hormonal systems may well just be beginning. But more and more women are paying attention to their intuition and insisting on information and choice, even digging in their heels in the face of pressure. One thing is sure: as women have fought for choices in how they give birth, they are now also fighting for non-invasive and non-chemical options in birth control. ▼

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I'm a dick, I'm addicted to you

SOCIAL FACTORS COMPLICATE LIFE FOR HOOKERS AND JOHNS

MURRAY SINCLAIR / murray@vueweekly.com

NEWS | PROSTITUTION

Even in our supposedly equal and enlightened society, women and men experience a whole host of social phenomenon in vastly different ways, perhaps none more than sex addiction. If a woman is addicted to sex, she can feed her addiction by finding men at a bar to take home, falling quietly within societal norms that are widely accepted, considered harmless and even celebrated.

"A really attractive sex addict has her pick," said sex therapist Cory Hrushka.

But while male addicts will have sex with an unattractive woman, things don't work out the same when it comes to women and unattractive men, he added. Male addicts often pick up a prostitute, a move that harms communities, strains the tax-funded legal system, risks their physical health and fuels the addictions that many sex-trade workers suffer.

The different realities for men and women point to how social and psychological factors above simple sex drive combine when it comes to buying sex, say two sex addiction experts.

EDMONTON SEX THERAPIST Doris Vincent estimates 12 per cent of sex addicts are also addicted to paying for sex, while Hrushka believes up to half of the men who buy prostitutes may be addicts.

"When I was at john school, a third of them thought they might have had a problem," said Vincent, who has spoken about sexual behaviour and addictions at the Edmonton-based school.

In what's formally known as the Prostitution Offender Program, eligible men caught buying sex who choose to participate in the school's day long course learn about the health risks of their behaviour and hear stories from people and communities victimized by the sex trade.

Just as the school's approach sways away from traditional punishment, Vincent said she participates to reach those whose sex addiction is the root of prostitute buying.

"I'm hoping to show them that there are people who can help, not just scorn and shame," she said.

Sex addicts have often been exposed to pornography from as young as six years old, said Vincent, and become shocked at the sexual sights before they are able to understand.

"As with all addiction, the root is trauma," she said, noting how the images "alter their normal sex development."

Widespread use of the internet, where porn is widely accessible without parental supervision, is a concern for that very reason, the therapist added.

Children often get frustrated not knowing how to deal with emotional problems like stress, Vincent said, and may turn to pornography, often accompanied by masturbating, as an escape.

"It begins to be used as a drug (and) alters the brain chemistry at some point."

Of course, that's not to say that any child who comes across their dad's copy of Playboy once or twice will turn into a sex addict, just as someone who has the odd drink won't necessarily become an alcoholic.

Vincent said the danger is with repeated exposure to porn, where the viewer needs to see increasingly shocking images and then suffers withdrawal, setting up an addictive cycle.

With such distorted images imprinted in their mind, an addict de-links sex with intimacy, and will have trouble forming normal, healthy relationships.

"Someone addicted to sex can't be sexually aroused by someone they care about," noted Vincent.

Hrushka cited one married male client he has worked with who was buying sex three times a week for 20 years while on runs as a trucker, without his wife finding out.

Most sex addicts have been exposed to pornography, but the therapist also cited figures that 97 per cent of treated US addicts have been emotionally abused, 81 per cent had suffered sexually abuse and 72 per cent have been abused psychologically.

"A higher percentage of individuals who develop sex addiction were sexually abused, but it's not a guarantee" that the abused will be addicts, he said, adding that many sex addicts are also hooked on alcohol or drugs.

BOTH THERAPISTS AGREED it's generally true that men have a higher sex drive than women.

"Testosterone is a factor," said Hrushka, noting how higher estrogen counts in women lead to more desire for "cuddly" contact, with less of a focus on orgasms.

"But the biggest organ is your mind," he said. "Men and women are chasing different things."

For sex addicts, Vincent said, a lot of women get addicted to romance, fantasizing and masturbating, often turning to the internet to find some online partners who will pursue them.

"It's more about excitement and anticipation [and] the feeling of being in love," said the therapist. "An orgasm is not part of it. Some are looking for the excitement of the chase, to get a high and escape."

He said sometimes the addicted women chase love through sex, while men chase intimacy through sex, and both get frustrated when sex doesn't automatically bring it about.

Male sex addicts buy sex to create what Vincent called "simulated intimacy," or for no-hassle sex that doesn't need to have an accompanying relationship.

Some of the men who buy sex are excited experimenting with something different, with the uncertainty or risk.

"They spend more time cruising (for street sex-trade workers) then with the prostitutes themselves," she said.

"Guys usually being on the street would have higher rates of addiction," added Hrushka.

He said treatment for the condition, which runs from mild to severe, can include cognitive therapy, or having the addicts change their beliefs.

Vincent forwarded the Edmonton numbers of Sexaholics Anonymous (988.4411) and Sex Addicts Anonymous (429.9886) for those afflicted.

She said addicts should check if their therapists have a policy to keep information confidential, and to not forward what they're told on prostitution-related activities to the police unless a life is at risk.

But addicts nonetheless form only a portion of those buying prostitutes, meaning that simply putting people in therapy can't be seen as a catch-all solution for those looking to cut buying sex by curbing demand.

When asked if it was normal to buy sex or if normal people do it, Hrushka countered that "normal" is a relative term.

Some johns come from an ethnic or economic-class sub-society where prostitution is considered acceptable, he said, just as mistresses are less taboo in other countries.

"There's still some of that around," said the therapist.

Some men don't have the social

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

Keep fit and have ... fun

HEALTH

WELL, WELL, WELL

CONNIE HOWARD
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It's one of those things—if you're getting all you want, it recedes into the background along with eating and sleeping and all the other things we take for granted, but if you're hungry, it becomes all-consuming. I am, of course, like everyone else here this week, talking about sex.

They tell us that if we're healthy and rested and happy we're still doin' it into our 70s, and even (I'm sorry) 80s. But healthy, rested and happy can be a hard trio to come by; once we're past our 20s and immersed in careers and mortgage payments and family and familiarity, the rested and happy part tends to be a little elusive for a couple of decades. And when the crazy-busy years ease up a bit and rested and happy become a little less elusive, healthy can begin its turn at being hard to maintain, though health is, of course, a goal worth chasing.

Visiting with a friend on the weekend, noticing her looking particularly rested after a couple of weeks in the woods with her hubby, I learned from her that, according to Chinese medicine it's our kidney Qi that plays a key role in keeping our libido healthy. This was news to me, so I had to check it out, learning from Dr Stephen T Chang (who wrote *The Complete System of Chinese Self-Healing*) some most intriguing recommendations for re-energizing kidney Qi. (If you're looking for interesting dinner-party conversation material, you need look no further).

Women wanting to re-energize their kidney Qi, he says, should limit themselves almost exclusively to being the recipients of oral sex, permitting intercourse a very rare two to 16 times a year (he's serious), while healthy men are recommended a regime of making like bunnies twice a day in their 20s, once a day in their 30s, and gradually decreasing to once every five days for those in their 50s. (Here's the dinner-party question: how will this be resolved when one partner is healthy and the other needs her kidney Qi re-energized?)

BUT EVEN THE YOUNG and healthy have their sex woes, birth control being one of them. The not-uncommon side effects of irritability, weight gain and not feeling sexy while on the pill can make us wonder about the cost of our pleasure. And then there's the irony of choosing the pill (because we're told it's the most effective contraception available), only to find we're no longer hugely interested in sex—another fairly common side effect of messing with our hormones.

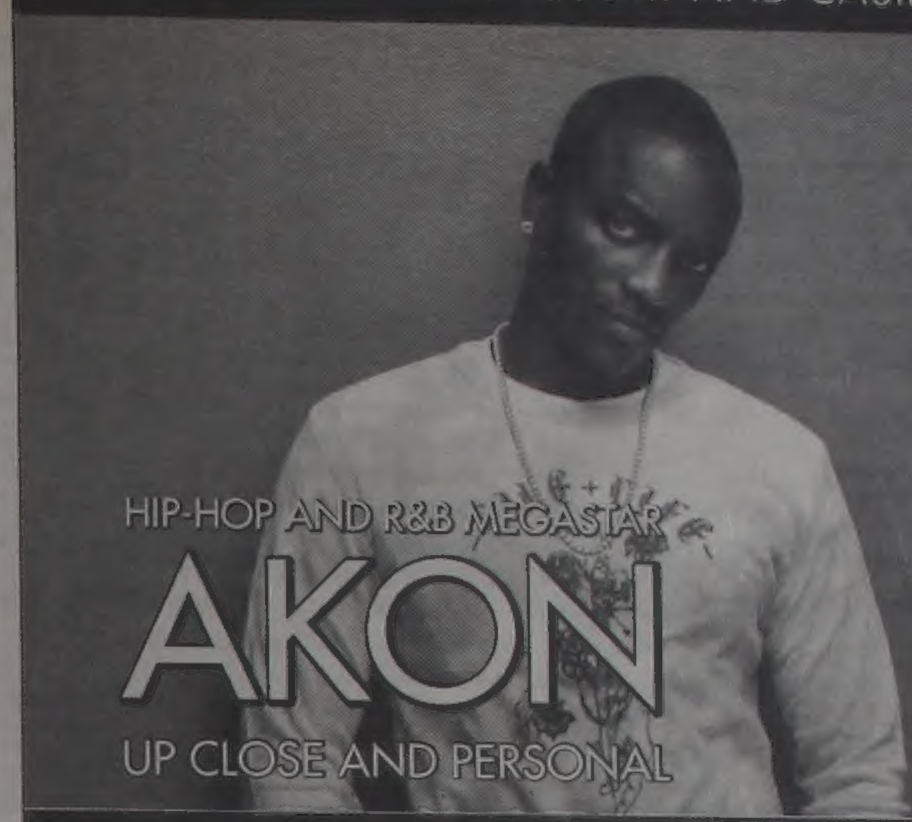
Not that the pill is the only potential cause of our libido woes. The staples of busy-ness and stress and fatigue and caring for little ones aren't all that easy to resolve either, as we can't just quit our jobs, give the kids away and pretend we're rabbits. Nor can we always easily resolve the sticky situation of a partner chronically irritated with us, which will kill desire as quickly as testosterone or kidney Qi depletion will.

Other culprits include things as basic as the vitamins and minerals we're not getting in our agri-business farmed food, or not getting because the pill is leaching them out of our systems, or not getting because we're in chronic-over-drive, high-cortisol, not-enough-rest, too-tired-to-stay-fit mode.

Then there's depression and its treatment options, both of which can be effective at killing desire. Doctors tend to suspect depression when patients complain of lack of interest in the normal pleasures of life, and once depression has been diagnosed, they prescribe antidepressants. But half of those on antidepressants have sexual complaints of one kind or another—a good reason to search for alternative, no-side-effect ways to treat depression and keep ourselves laughing.

And, this is no laughing matter, but some on antidepressant meds know nothing of suppressed sexual desire or function, and experience an entirely opposite side-effect, a kind of hyper-sexuality that includes (I'm not kidding) what I'm assuming would be a very pleasant kind of yawning—yawning accompanied by out-of-the-blue spontaneous orgasm. ▼

RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO PRESENTS



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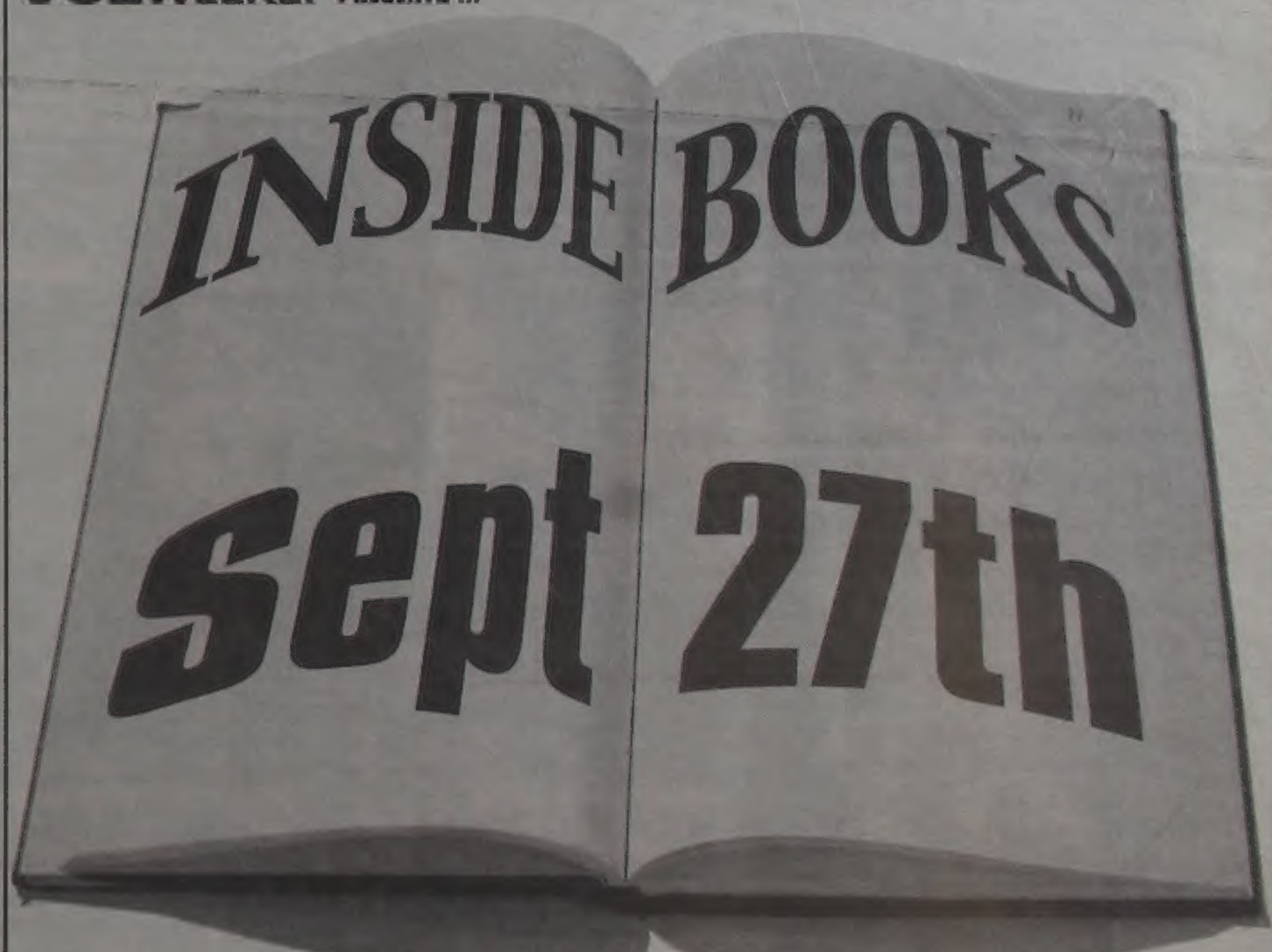

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PROSTITUTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

skills or attractiveness to get into a relationship, Hrushka said, or find that being a virgin into their 20s, 30s or 40s is unbearably out of sync with popular societal notions.

Social beliefs can come into play even when it comes to attitudes about pleasuring oneself through masturbation versus buying sex, said Hruska.

"People say 'there's no way I'm touching myself—that's someone else's job,'" he said, noting that other men can't take the time or effort to form a relationship in their current situation and buy sex to quickly and cheaply fulfill their sexual needs.

"I work with a lot of single guys on the rigs who have a lot of money," he added, "but not a lot of time."

But Hrushka stressed it was not only blue-collar workers buying sex, mentioning how he's dealt with lawyers, businessmen and even church ministers.

JOHNS CAN HAVE A self-centred attitude, thinking they can do whatever they want, with money often giving a sense of power, the therapist notes.

"It's about the domination, to make them do what you want," said the therapist. "Some guys say, 'I feel like getting laid, and instead of going to the bar, I can get what I want.'"

Last year, the executive director of Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton noted the number of men buying sex who are abusive, calling violence part of prostitution.

In a foundation video, she talked of how some sex-buying men are lonely, curious or say they want to help the woman by paying her for food or a place to stay.

Hrushka said higher-income men often buy their sex from escort agencies, while those with lower incomes pick the cheaper street prostitutes.

"The internet has created a big shift," he said, pointing to webcams and the availability of online sex and sex-buying sites.

Because women are generally less physically strong then men, Vincent said women may fear the risk of buying from the street, and there's also the social stigma.

"I imagine it's terribly embarrassing for a women to buy sex," she said.

The diverse factors behind sex-buying is reflected by the prostitution awareness foundation's website statement that it's "working towards long-term solutions to the complex issues central to prostitution."

The group, which runs the john school, has put up billboards asking, "When you buy sex, who really pays," reminiscent of an anti-drunk-driving public-education campaign.

When asked how to curb the buying of sex, Hrushka cautioned that many people are squeamish and shy talking about sex, an act that is not harmful by itself.

"We're dealing with a market economy," he adds, when asked if buying sex will ever stop. "Money rules. Whatever you want can be bought." v

Social programs give France's 'birth-giving machines' the bug

COMMENT

DYER STRAIGHT

GWYNNE DYER
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"The number of women aged between 15 and 50 is fixed," explained Japanese Health Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa in a speech in Matsue City in January. "Because the number of birth-giving machines and devices is fixed, all we can ask for is for them to do their best per head." Then he paused a moment and hastily added: "Although it may not be so appropriate to call them machines."

Indeed. But he wasn't just rude; he was also wrong. Governments *can* affect the birth rate. More babies were born in France in 2006 than in any other year for the past quarter-century—830 000 of them, in fact. The fertility rate, which has been rising for years, is now up to two babies per woman, and at the rate it is currently rising will reach the "replacement rate" of 2.1 next year. Compared to Japan's incredibly low 1.26 babies per woman, it is a veritable baby boom, but even within Europe the French birth rate is only exceeded by the Irish.

Japan and France had roughly similar demographic trends after the Second World War. First came the "baby boom," as a result of which Japan's population grew from 75 million to the current 127 million and France's went from 40 million to 63 million. But by the 1990s both countries' birth rates had dropped below replacement level, and in the long run that means the actual population begins to shrink. Japan's population duly started down again in 2004. By 2050, it is predicted to be only 90 million.

This is quite normal in the developed world, where among the larger countries only the United States still has a growing population (and that mostly thanks to immigration). Japan's population is falling faster than most, but Italy and Russia are falling just as fast. Yet the French birth rate, which was following the same pattern, suddenly turned around in 1996 and started going up again.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING right? "The deciding factor (is) that it is easier to reconcile professional activity and a family life here than in most other European countries," suggested Jean-Michel Charpin, director of the national statistics agency Insee.

The dates do more or less match up. France's unusually family-friendly policies, like universally affordable day care and generous parental leave, were launched in the early 1990s under then-Families Minister and recent presidential candidate Segolene Royal—and only a few years later, the birth rate started to recover.

Even the racists in the National Front do not oppose these policies, because every ethnic group has responded in the same way to these incentives: the fertility rate among France's immigrant population is only slightly higher than that of the population at large. If current trends—a declining population in Germany and a slowly rising population in France—persist, then by 2050 France will have the second-largest population in Europe, behind only Russia.

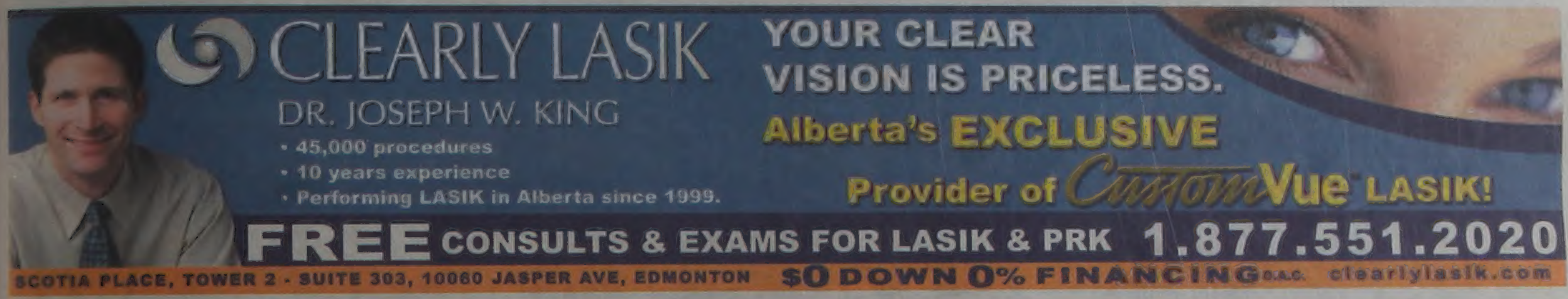
Others are beginning to notice the French success, and Russia most of all. Russia had 150 million people when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, but it's already down to 143 million, and at the moment it is shrinking by 700 000 people every year. This has been causing something close to panic in the Kremlin, where they see the increasingly empty spaces of Siberia and the Russian Far East as a standing temptation to an overcrowded China. (That may be paranoid, but you hear it in Moscow all the time.)

"The most acute problem in modern-day Russia is demography," said President Vladimir Putin last May, and announced measures even more sweeping than those in France to get the birth rate up. Starting this month, Russian women who give birth to a second child will get an immediate cash bonus of 250 000 roubles ($9500). That's a small fortune in an economy where the minimum wage is just over $300 a month.

At the same time Putin doubled the state benefit for a first child to $55 a month, while women who have a second child will get an extra $110 a month plus financial help with child care. Have three children, and you will get close to the minimum wage without working at all. That should be enough to stabilize the population.

Not that the world actually needs more Russians or French or Japanese, of course. There are already ten times as many of them (and of everybody else) as there were five hundred years ago, and that's probably already more than the planet can bear over the long run. ▼

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries. His column appears regularly in Vue Weekly.



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GAMES | INFINITE LIVES

DARREN ZENKO
infinitelives@vueweekly.com

Sexing up a videogame column ought to be easy; games are pretty much half cheesecake these days, and between that, a roundup of the usual sexy suspects—*Hot Coffee*! *Leisure Suit Larry*!—and a little pseudo-shocked riffing on *Custer's Revenge* I should have been through this Very Special Episode in half an hour. That's what I did last year, anyway...

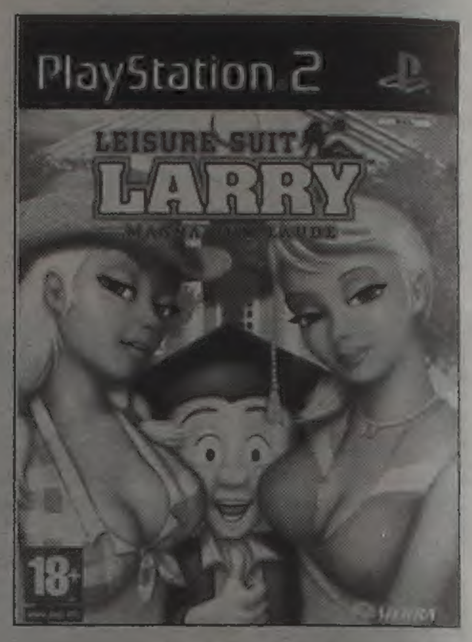
This year, though, finds me far from home and without a handy Internet connection for lazy cribbing. Hanging around my buddy's place, enjoying the surplus booze from a Cold Lake party, coming up with material means digging deep into the resources at hand: a carton of old NES cartridges and a short stack of late-'80s tips n' tricks magazines.

Leafing through *Top Secret Passwords* to find anything sexy or even remotely sexual (unless you count all those Freudian lazer guns) is pure futility; the raciness we take for granted in our fabulous world of J-cup kung-fu vixens playing beach volleyball simply didn't exist under Nintendo's one-party rule. I mean, in the NES version of *Double Dragon* we didn't even get the legendary panty shot that made the arcade game worth a quarter. My search for sex and/or sexiness is reduced to finding any depiction of any female whatsoever.

A tiny little portrait in one corner of a screenshot from *Magic of Scheherazade* barely counts, and "Thank you, Isfa. You have defeated the great demon GORAGORA, the pure evil" doesn't do much for me as pillow talk. A bit better is a head-and-shoulders shot of Breathless Mahoney from the *Dick Tracy* game, an oddly pug-faced Madonna-analogue showing two whole pixels of cleavage; the onscreen options—INTERROGATE / ARREST—and the make-'em-talk spotlight give the whole thing a kind of kinky roleplay vibe. The hottest, though, is foxy mermaid Annie from *The Goonies II*, imprisoned *totally naked* in her padlocked aquarium, arms snuggled coquettishly over her amphibious bosom, declaring simply "I LOVE YOU, MIKEY."

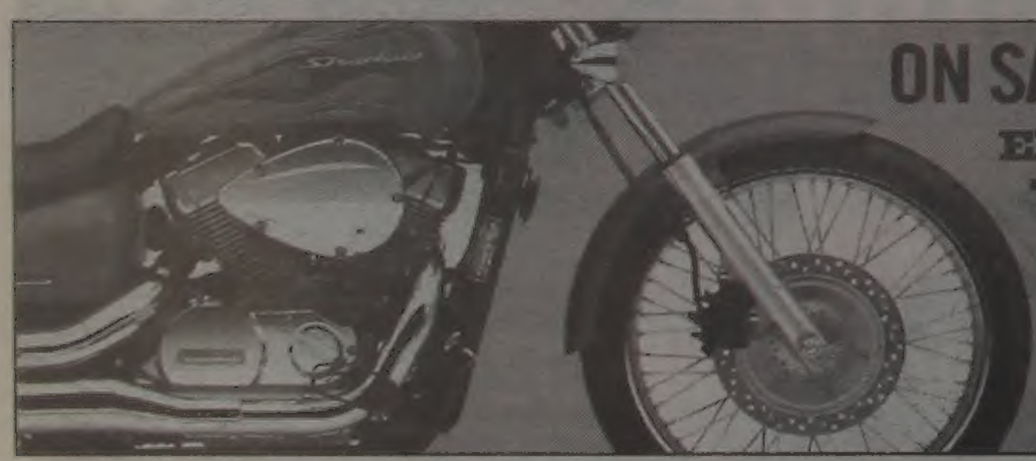
IN THE HIERARCHY OF wank material, this ranks far below the Sears catalogue. But if finding titillation in the G-rated NES era was difficult (well, if you liked girls, anyway), finding an actual, ass-kicking female character of any sort was impossible. From World 1-1 to Adventure Island, the universe of videogames was a non-stop sausage party. But a screenshot down in the bottom corner of page 79 shows the moment when that started to change, with an unmistakably female—nice curves, flowing hair, sassy one-piece swimsuit—figure launching plasma orbs of death: the one and only Samus Aran.

If you weren't an adolescent boy at the time, it'll be difficult for you too imagine just what a mind-blowing revelation "Samus is a chick!" was. You played through hours and hours and hours of *Metroid*, alien-zapping and boss-battling



with your power-armored bounty hunter, and when all the power-ups had been gathered and Mother Brain blown to smithereens you got the big reveal: helmet doffed, suit peeled off, your "man" stands there, feminine and sassy. Even when you knew it was coming—and "Samus is a chick" was common knowledge on the '80s schoolyard—that moment was just, like "No waaaaay!" Everyone then entered the not-so-secret "Justin Bailey" code to play the game with Samus in unarmored mode, just for the incredible novelty of seeing a female character in action.

Nowadays, you almost wouldn't bother to ship a game without some kind of T&A angle; serious people use the phrase "breast physics" without irony. Female leads are common—and if they tend heavily, if not exclusively, toward an adolescent bondage-fantasy aesthetic, well... is "fetish pinup ninja" not an improvement on "kidnapped girlfriend?" I'll take it over the sexless battlegrounds of the 8-bit era; as a former adolescent boy, I have to say that the ability to angle the camera to look down your character's shirt is infinitely preferable to sitting in some basement rumpus room, arguing with a buddy over whether four pixels glimpsed for a split-second were or were not "panties." v



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2007 Sex in the City Survey

Q. DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU WERE NOT EXPECTING TO HAVE SEX BUT DID.

After my boyfriend had his wisdom teeth removed and was still all puffy and drugged out.

Went over to a girl's house I had just 'met' on line. Her three kids were upstairs. We went crazy across the hall. By the way, she was loud!

Waking up next to her in our tent when we were camping, and everyone else was already up and very close to our tent. It's funny because I had my first g-spot orgasm EVER, with people so near us. (Yes, I managed to remain silent).

Went out to see a concert, came home, met a guy in my back alley who was at a party next door. We hit it off instantly, and he took me back to his place. Easy as pie.

I was sitting on a couch with a man I had never met, and we started brushing up against each other and getting hot n heavy with all of my friends/his friends in the room watching. Finally we just started going at it with everyone watching—we had a blanket over us to start with, but it fell off and we didn't bother picking it up.

I went out with a fellow actor from the play we were currently in, got drunk, and then screwed in his car down the street from my house. He ended up telling his girlfriend he was studying all night.

In the empty seats behind the stage at the Tool concert last fall. Getting ridden in front of 15 000 oblivious people while listening to Tool like is pretty damn irresistible.

I'm a guide in the mountains, and on a recent trip a client came to my tent in the middle of the night because she was scared of bears. At first I actually thought that was the reason, but it turns out she was just looking for an excuse.

Went over to pick up stuff from my ex-girlfriend's place. We had just gone through a bitter, nasty break up (I cheated). When I arrived she was in skimpy clothes and ready to go!!! We had fairly dirty, grimy sex and that was that.

3 am on a Saturday night, trolling online adult forums. The lady half of a couple comes online looking for guys to fuck at her house. It'll be just her, her man, and me. Didn't expect that they'd pick me, but they did. It was fun, if a little freaky, since the guy very much wanted to go down on me. Though we all had fun, I wouldn't recommend doing that to anyone (and I never did it again either). You just don't know what's going to happen and stupidly, I was thinking with my dick.

On my birthday at the beach—a foursome with my best friend and two young mexican guys.

Went to see a band play one night, hung out with the band, my friend did one guy, I brought the other two home with me—good times, and I'm still friends with them all.

Canoe ing at Lake Edith by Jasper, we pulled off into a little lagoon and had sex in the canoe.

Maybe not sex, but a blowjob in her 'lil sister's bedroom while her sister was in the shower. Had to be quick to not get caught!!

I was seduced by a co-worker and ended up having sex under a table in a college library. Two minutes well spent I'd say.

When I woke up to find a drunk girl who'd climbed into the wrong tent while a group of us were camping and we started having sex before she bothered to see if I was her husband or not. That was awkward afterwards.

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

What gender do you most identify yourself as being?

59%	**Male**
38%	**Female**
3%	**Other**

People who specified other include:

Male to Female Transgender
I am a male but want to be female

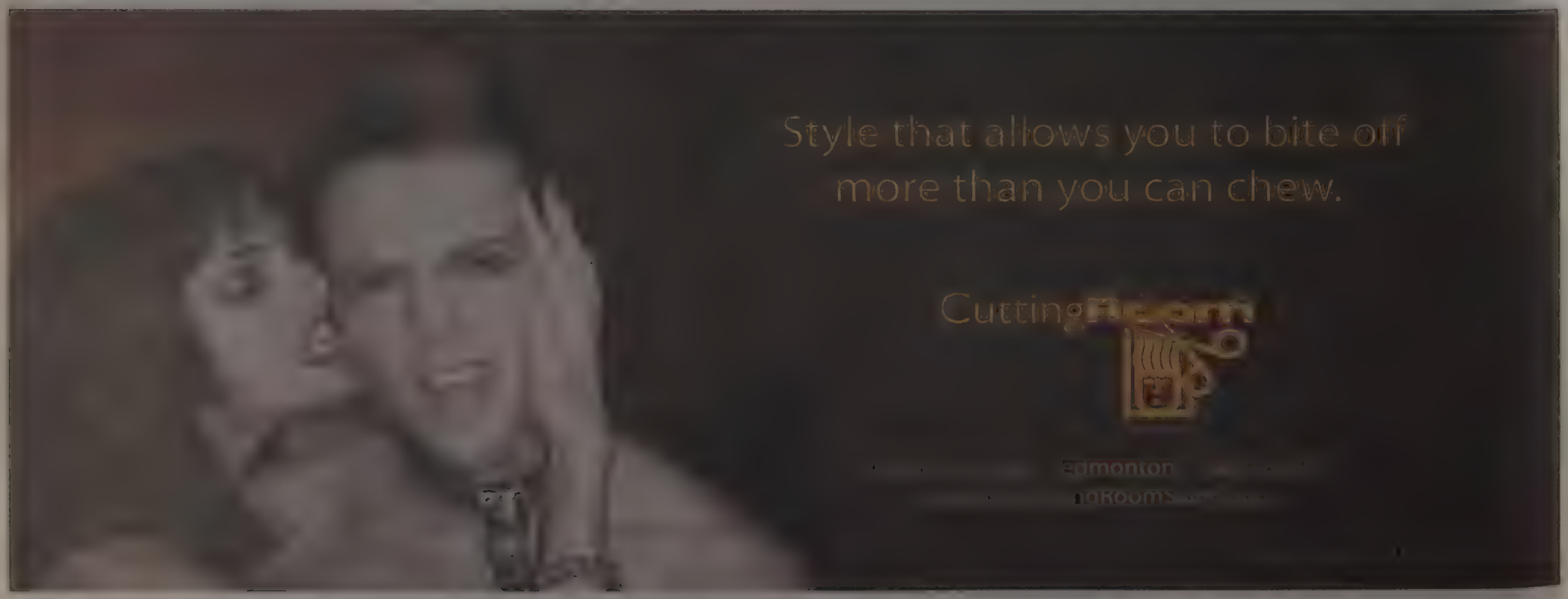
Are you straight, gay or bisexual?

66%	**Straight**
12%	**Gay**
12%	**Bisexual**
7%	**Other**

People who specified other include:

Heteroflexible
Pansexual
15 per cent fag
Straight but a little bi-curious
Orally bisexual
Omnisexual
80 per cent gay, 20 per cent straight but not really bisexual

There was a lot more of the same but more wordy descriptions of other. We did not expect paragraphs describing what was attractive to people on alternating Tuesdays but that was some of what we got. Nevertheless, we only have so much space to print the results of this survey so from here on in, we will be including those that answered 'other' in the bisexual group. Why? Because, given their flexibility or inability to com mit, bisexual seems most appropriate. Yes, we're making a judgment call. Sue us!



How old are you?

Age	Male	Female
13-17	7%	12%
18-24	31%	47%
25-29	23%	23%
30-37	13%	8%
38-45	9%	5%
46-75	9%	4%
75 plus	0%	1%

So, much like last year, our younger readers were more inclined to participate but wow did we get funky answers from the older batch. Damn you old folks are kinky!!

In the last 12 months, you are?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Still Single	23%	25%	42%	26%	25%	19%
Still Attached	43%	32%	21%	41%	20%	35%
Newly Single	7%	6%	5%	4%	10%	6%
Newly Attached	11%	13%	10%	13%	35%	14%
In a relationship then out, then in again and so on...	4%	3%	13%	5%	5%	14%
Sleeping around and loving it	7%	18%	0%	11%	5%	6%
Married to my fist	5%	0%	8%	1%	0%	0%

In retrospect, 'Married to my Fist' seems like a stupid option but it was funny at the time. As for results that we can see from your answers, most people have stuck with status quo except for gay guys. They're getting hooked up by the truck loads. Bisexual Edmontonians seem least able to stick with a relationship. They are obviously trying, or else they would have answered "Sleeping around."

In the last month, how many times have you had sex?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
0	25%	18%	42%	28%	30%	19%
1-4	24%	23%	32%	19%	20%	15%
5-10	20%	26%	5%	21%	15%	22%
11-20	19%	23%	10%	19%	15%	23%
21-30	6%	10%	7%	9%	10%	8%
Over 30	6%	3%	2%	5%	10%	6%

Wow, why do bisexual guys have sex so infrequently? It seems the average Edmontonian is getting laid about 5 or 7 times a month but the biguys are stuck at 2 or 3. What the hell is going on? Will some one please pick up a bisexual guy and screw him. They're getting all whiny and sad.

In the last month, how many times have you masturbated??

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
0	6%	6%	5%	25%	20%	6%
1-4	15%	13%	8%	22%	25%	30%
5-10	24%	19%	16%	31%	20%	32%
11-20	20%	26%	24%	14%	18%	12%
21-30	16%	15%	21%	7%	5%	6%
Over 30	18%	19%	25%	2%	20%	10%

Wow, bi guys must have some strong wrists. Is the reason they aren't getting laid because they are satisfied taking care of themselves or are they jerking off because they cant get laid? More research must be done. The ladies just don't seem all that bothered. They are either getting laid like crazy or they're too busy doing something else.

Q. TELL US ABOUT A FANTASY THAT YOU'VE REALIZED IN THE LAST YEAR, OR ONE YOU WISH YOU HAD.

Rough sex, in the car, in the WEM parkade, after seeing *The Grudge 2*

Kissing a girl for the first time. It's as simple as that because I was just discovering that I am attracted to women, and I wanted that kiss so bad.

I want to watch a couple or group have sex—completely non participatory (I just watch, I don't participate). I'm working to find someone, but most people want me to participate!

Well, its rather distasteful, but I was on the receiving end of a golden shower.

My first huge cock (a 12 incher) and my first black man (and, no, they were not the same person).

Ooooh, BDSM..The idea of tying three or four acquaintances up and blindfolding them altogether, while using implements from a flagellary as I penetrate and am penetrated by each (depending on what they scream for at the time).

I want to tie them up, put a collar around their neck, gag them with a ball gag, fuck them from behind and spank them and pull their hair while I cum

I want to have an orgy with four men, one eating me out, one in me, one in my mouth, and one sucking on my tits.

Blowing a whole bunch of guys at the same time in public. It was a fucking rush

Well, two chicks with strap-ons

[illegible] attracted to [illegible] women [illegible] each other when there is some real passion and heat. I think she is interest[illegible] sometimes have talked about it, but only when she lets her guard down (right around wine bottle number two). I [illegible] sexy, and I would definitely like to watch. She thinks I would like to join in but for me that is not the [illegible]g part. It is seeing her be overwhelmed by a beautiful woman.

[illegible] that involves fucking one of the hot girls in my office, possibly in her office or the bathroom or the supply [illegible]

[illegible] ntercourse with my girlfriend. I've been thinking about it and looking forward to it for a while, but [illegible]e're both holding off on that for a little while longer.

[illegible] to have sex on a park bench, him with easily accessible pants and me in a skirt sitting on his lap.

[illegible] go to bed in a beautiful white lace bed with a canopy in a large white room with the niceness of my man to [illegible] in satin white and we go to bed and make love with warm music playing and we dance away the night [illegible] nd caviar and salmon and delicatessens to neatly eat upon. One day we will be in the Hotel of our [illegible]

I had a crush on my next door neighbour, who was beautiful and so kind, that I hung two beautiful roses on her door, but [illegible] never found out who she got them from. I guess I was afraid of telling her and seeing what her response would be.

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

Do you ever masturbate in the workplace?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Often	5%	10%	5%	2%	20%	10%
Occasionally	25%	23%	29%	8%	5%	18%
Never	23%	35%	21%	11%	20%	20%
21-30	47%	32%	42%	79%	30%	44%
Other	1%	0%	3%	1%	25%	4%

Damn, we forgot to ask what other means. I wonder what the hell the gay girls are doing at work. They didn't answer no so there must be orgasms involved. What are you girls doing? Incidentally, if you are reading this at work, stop what you are doing and look around. Do you see three guys? Statistically speaking, one of them jerks off in your office regularly enough to quantify it. Can you tell which one? We dare you to confront the one you think is doing it. We dare you!

Have you ever slipped away from work for a midday screw?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Often	6%	6%	5%	2%	10%	8%
Occasionally	23%	13%	18%	16%	10%	20%
Never	22%	16%	13%	20%	10%	18%
21-30	32%	61%	60%	61%	60%	46%
Other	1%	3%	3%	2%	10%	4%

People who specified other said:

I legally can't leave during a shift but my girlfriend came to work and I know all the hiding spots.

Interesting, straight males seem most willing and able to slip home to slip one in. Why is that? Are their jobs more flexible? Or do their bosses just not care if they leave?

How many sex partners have you had in the last year??

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
0	17%	13%	13%	29%	18%	9%
1	5[illegible]%	2[illegible]%	20%	32%	40%	31%
2-4	24%	25%	23%	24%	24%	44%
5-10	5%	13%	13%	10%	9%	6%
over 10	5%	26%	26%	5%	2%	8%

We asked you to be more specific about the amount of partners you had, you said:

I'm in the swing community, so I may have 10 just in one day if there's a good group party happening. It's so lovely!

More like 30 or 40

I have two boyfriends and all three of us are in a polyamorous relationship.

As gay men, we do like to share ourselves more freely than those in the straight community, always have, always will! The proud history continues...

My wife (who doesn't know) and a girl friend that knows about my wife

There is only one thing we can thing of to say... wow, gay girls and boys get around!!

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From Mild to Wild, We Make Lovin' Fun

Let's talk about hair. Do you keep you keep yourself...

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Bare	7%	10%	16%	32%	20%	12%
Just a hint	24%	35%	18%	33%	10%	34%
Trimmed but plentiful	39%	39%	39%	27%	40%	34%
Au Naturale	28%	16%	26%	6%	5%	6%
Other	2%	0%	0%	2%	25%	10%

What did you mean by other?

Shaved balls trimmed pubes

Au natural for now but can be changed by request

I have a landing strip.

I trim when I'm expecting company ... so not lately.

If I am in a relationship, I try to keep things under control, mostly based on a preference specified by the other person. Otherwise, my bush just gets totally ignored.

Wow, the girls seem much more inclined to keep things neat and tidy. Are guys that lazy and insensitive? In a word, yes.

What do you prefer from your partner?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Bare	39%	13%	32%	16%	15%	8%
Just a hint for friction	24%	32%	8%	25%	10%	19%
Trimmed but plentiful	13%	19%	24%	32%	30%	37%
A nice design	8%	12%	11%	2%	15%	10%
Let the forests grow	6%	10%	5%	15%	5%	2%
I've never had a partner. Damn	7%	6%	18%	10%	5%	2%
Other	2%	3%	3%	1%	20%	20%

What did you mean when you said other?

Hairy like a bear wearing another bear as a coat

Males .. trimmed; women .. bare

Wow, It seems almost everyone prefers when their partner keeps things trimmed down below. Are men letting their partners down? Get out the shavers boys—you owe your partners!

Ladies, which of these would best describe your labia?

	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Video-game coin slot	37%	35%	20%
Cheeseburger	15%	20%	24%
Montreal smoked-meat sandwich	14%	0%	22%
The curtains from a Broadway play	19%	22%	16%
Other	15%	22%	14%

Other? How would you describe it?

I would have went with the smoked meat sandwich, but I believe mine to be more like stacks of art work on pink canvas: you know there is something beautiful inside but the full appreciation doesn't hit until you've actually opened them up to reveal the

The gates that lead to happiness

Unique, smooth and tidy

A muppet's mouth sideways

Holy crap. We came up with this question, we thought it was hilarious but did we ever piss some women off. Check out the comments:

What the fuck do any of those mean?

I rarely to never describe my labia as anything—especially not as meat products or entertainment products. Gross, man

I'd prefer not to compare my vagina to a "Montreal smoked-meat sandwich," thank you very much.

What the fuck? Guys get banana and pop can while we get smoked meat and cheeseburger? Way to gross it up. No wonder women have issues. Whatever happened to flowers?

I don't understand your metaphors.

The only other comments we have to make is, how did people get this wrong? Several women answered "I am a man" and several guys told us about their labias. Even if our metaphors sucked the question seemed fairly specific to gender. Or so we thought

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Which of these would best describe your penis?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male
Sharpie	9%	10%	6%
Banana	47%	52%	58%
Pop Can	9%	3%	9%
Cucumber	30%	32%	18%
Other	10%	10%	9%

Again, people, how do you get this question wrong? 3 per cent of guys told us they were chicks. Plus a couple girls told us they were transsexuals, and then told us about their penises. How can you get these questions wrong? It's like the bonus question on your grade one test where you get an extra point if you spell your name correctly. Damn.

Anyway, other means what?

Between a sharpie and a cucumber. Thicker and longer than a sharpie, smaller and shorter than a cucumber

Kubasa

Banana, curved to the left.

More like a large pickle, but the Claussen kind, not Bicks. I hate Bicks.

Ever seen a South African naked mole-rat? If so, then you've seen my penis

Q. WHAT IS THE ODDEST OR MOST MEANINGFUL GIFT YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED FROM A LOVER?

A pocket protector from Fischer Chemical
My son
Chlamydia
A calendar from a Chinese Restaurant.
Glass tiles for my bathroom. Now I am reminded of him every time I shower!
A fly swatter. Gad! They were driving me mad, man!
Hand written letter and a hoodie that smelled like him....
A glass dildo—actually 3 of them, all custom made. Yahoo!!!
He made me chocolates in the shape of hearts.
A painting he did for me before he moved away.
My fiance sketched a picture of me lying on his bed, then got it custom framed and signed it.
Anal beads
A butt plug?
A wonderful round of strip poker early in our relationship
My wedding ring
A little corduroy bunny
Most meaningful—weed, papers and a pipe.
Shamu the killer whale bathtub toy
An air filter for my vehicle, quite early in the relationship
Leather chaps. Hot and kinky!
A duct tape wallet.
Fuzzy handcuffs
I got a box of chocolate kisses with a (closed) bottle of KY jelly in the center. Sexy and touching!
A small plastic army man.
The Big Lebowski DVD
First time anal. It was really quite nice.
My boyfriend likes to hide gifts he knows I'll love (like Lush gift certificates or spa trips) inside gifts he knows I'll hate (like a DVD that I'd never ever watch.) He thinks it's funny.
The most meaningful gift from my lover is when I was recovering from chemo therepy, she had gone out and gotten some private personal pictures done of her for me.
An engagement ring... or a strap on.
"Brad Pitt," my vibrator
When I was 15 a boy took me on a date to La Ronde. From the tip (which he absentmindedly mentioned was 15% while doing the mental math) I worked out that the meal cost him about $180
A bag full of double bubble comics
A surprise camping trip (all expenses paid) at a lake outside of town, where she pretty much waited on me hand and foot. She went out of her way to make me feel like I was the most important person in the world to her.
French press: I love coffee!!

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

Let's talk about drugs. On which do you think sex is the best?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
E	4%	13%	5%	5%	0%	10%
Acid	2%	3%	5%	0%	0%	2%
Pot	12%	13%	13%	12%	5%	8%
Coke	2%	6%	3%	4%	5%	4%
Shrooms	2%	6%	5%	2%	10%	6%
Alcohol	10%	0%	13%	20%	10%	10%
Who needs it?	27%	35%	13%	28%	35%	28%
Never tried	35%	23%	37%	27%	20%	18%
Other	4%	0%	5%	1%	15%	10%

What does other mean?

Had a great time on shrooms, unfortunately never a sexy good time!

Viagra when you're young. Nothing beats it, trust me.

E, coke, ketamine, and pot would be my favorites

I don't have an "other," I just wanted to emphasize how awesome sex is on weed. Seriously.

Edmonton has spoken, and there are enough hormones and shit running through you when you're having sex that other 'medicine' is not required. Au naturale baby. But, those of you who are so inclined are lined up for the booze and the pot. We were very surprised at E's poor performance. Overrated, so you say!?!

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Sex with your current or most recent partner is (was)..

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Everything I could hope and dream for	22%	10%	18%	34%	15%	28%
Above average	39%	32%	21%	31%	50%	30%
Alright	21%	39%	26%	11%	15%	14%
It makes him/her happy. Otherwise I'd pass.	2%	13%	8%	4%	0%	2%
The reason the relationship sucks/is over!	3%	0%	0%	4%	10%	6%
I'm a virgin	11%	6%	18%	13%	0%	8%
Other	4%	0%	8%	4%	10%	8%

Other?

An ego boost. She came easily and let me know it. Pretty good for me too

I don't know what it is about my current partner, but I have the most fabulous orgasms.

Everything I could hope for and more, all things considered. My wife and I are both 23 and Christians; we've been married for three years. We were both virgins when we married. I had fooled around, including anal sex, with a couple girlfriends before my wife. My wife, on the other hand, had never even seen a guy in his boxers, never mind naked. At the start of our relationship she was very conservative and vanilla, however she is constantly growing, and as we continue to connect she is willing to open her boundaries and try new things. For a conservative pastor's daughter, she is doing her best to be GGG for me

He annihilated my vagina at 7 in the morning when I drunk as fuck and burned out. You could call it a bittersweet fuck.

Well, we have discovered why bisexual guys are limited to so few partners. A lot of them are virgins. It seems as though gay guys are willing to put out to keep a good partner but gay girls kick bad lover's asses out. But I am probably reading too much into this.

How big are your tits?

	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Flat as a board	3%	5%	4%
A	12%	5%	18%
B	22%	15%	18%
C	28%	35%	22%
D	15%	20%	10%
DD	10%	10%	14%
Larger than DD	9%	10%	8%

Well, we have nothing to say other than we were curious. But for those who would like to know, of the guys who answered only 39 per cent admitted to having man boobs. Do you believe them?

Oh, lest we forgot, those who wanted to tell us more said:

I've been told that I have the most perfect rack ever.

They look almost identical to Angelina Jolie's in the movie Gia.

At just over 40 I get a lot of compliments on my breasts from men of all ages. One even told me I still had the breasts of an 18 year old. Of course, I doubt he'd seen 18-year-old breasts in quite some time. Still, they're real, and they're SPECTACULAR! A great handful, but not too much. Like a nice bowl of cereal that is just right when you're hungry (but not starving).

They're brand new to me since I started the pill. I grew 2 cup sizes in a month or two but didn't put on weight elsewhere so they look huge to me. I was a B 3 years ago. Now I wear either a D or a DD.

I'm pregnant! They're getting bigger by the minute!

One is bigger than the other—very embarrassing.

They are pretty much just slightly under a 0.5 "A" cup size, with small nipples.

I've been a D cup since like grade 8. I like to refer to them as "the fucking hassle that gets me free drinks."

The first time I was with another girl she looked at my chest and said, "Oh my God! We have, like, the same breasts!"

The occasional stray jet black hair will spurt amidst the peach fuzz on my milky white breasts. My nipples are bumpy—I think it's little bits of calcium build up plus I have the odd scar from blemishes as a teen. I feel like my breasts are hideous because of this and I haven't revealed them in natural light in years.

When doing drag I get to make my own boobs, so I figured, "go big or go home!" I use a wonderful DD bra from La Senza that offers both comfort and support (getting sized was also a blast) with silicone inserts for feel and socks to fill them out. And now that I've seen the next question, I'm considering experimenting with Tic Tacs too.

Q. WHAT PIECE OF INFORMATION WOULD STOP YOU FROM SCREWING SOMEONE TO WHOM YOU ARE ATTRACTED?

We mentioned in an earlier question that STDs and STIs were the most common answer. Needless to say, those with diseases aren't getting much action. Unless they are lying about it. Other answers were:

"I have diarrhea"
That they want me to urinate, deficate, or release any other bodily fluid on their chest.
Smoker
They had a small inch penis
They've had sex with one of my siblings.
[illegible]—I go for the nice ones
[illegible] and playing without their partner. Married with the partner, totally cool.
[illegible]
[illegible] besides my girlfriend killing me?
[illegible] transgendered
[illegible] associated crimes—y'know, murder, abduction, but rapist is probably most common, most likely.)
[illegible]
[illegible] ter
[illegible] in love with a person before I can do that. Soooo probably if he didn't love me.
[illegible] s "Ghost Stories of Alberta 2"
[illegible]
[illegible] g me as part of a bet
[illegible] ve. (Well, maybe, but it would be a hate-fuck.)
[illegible] s—even if they are really hot, it wouldn't make me want to have sex with them.
[illegible] use a condom
[illegible] through a really rough break up but we're still trying to be friends"
[illegible] and highly corrosive
[illegible] participate in, incest, child porn, or bestiality

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Q. DO YOU OR YOUR PARTNER HAVE A NICK-NAME FOR YOUR OR YOUR PARTNER'S PRIVATE PARTS? PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH PART.

Breasts

Betty and Veronica
fluffy booobes
She calls my boobs Liza & Louise, because of the NOFX song about a girl who turns gay
schmeebs
jubblies.
Columbia and Magenta
Thelma and Louise.

Vagina

Miss Pussy
Honey
pinky
kitty
snapper
Muff Hump
"coochie",
Harold
lil' clam
oishi (means tasty)
Moo
kinky
Little Bun Bun
Miss Kitty
Cooch
Berty the Beave
Veronica.

Penis

I call his penis José.
"Cisco Adlers" (balls)
Rocket
Binky
General Rooster and/or King Phallus
"Julius, my +7 Gargantuan Turgid Staff of Vaginal Justice"
capin jack
"Sebastian"
Tomahawk
Winky
Mr Happy and the boys !!
The Little General
"Pepe"
loofah
Moses.
"Spike and the Boys"
The Excavator
Roxy
Peter
sand worm
[illegible]
[illegible]
Moby Dick

"Seriously, I went through many stupid questions. But this? Just.. what [illegible]"

(How do we respond to this comment? This survey was for fun. Why not name one of your bits "Vue Weekly." Imagine saying "oh no I got Vue all covered in your shit. I need to wash it." How funny would that be!)

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

Your nipples most resemble...

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Tic Tacs	35%	16%	28%	13%	20%	22%
Dimes	32%	29%	42%	27%	22%	12%
Bingo Dabbers	25%	45%	16%	43%	18%	42%
Salami Slices	3%	3%	13%	14%	15%	14%
Flapjacks	1%	3%	0%	1%	10%	2%
Hubcaps of a '57 Studebaker	4%	3%	3%	2%	15%	2%

We have no idea what to say other than these metaphors seemed not to bother anyone.

Ladies, Would you like or ever consider breast alteration surgery? If so what?

	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Bigger	20%	15%	16%
Smaller	12%	10%	10%
I've already made them bigger	2%	0%	2%
I've already made them smaller	1%	10%	6%
Would never consider it!	13%	24%	12%
I like em just the way they are!	43%	21%	34%
Other	8%	15%	14%

What does other mean?

Higher eventually!

More perky/shapely!

Just bring this back into position after post milk bag era

I'd like them to be a little less floppy so either smaller or larger.

I'd get a lift tomorrow! Saggy boobs aren't great!

Some days I would like enhancement just for shape purposes. Other times, I would like them to be smaller. I like small breasts.

Guys, which way do you hang?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male
Left	41%	32%	47%
Right	20%	43%	10%
Right up the Centre	26%	20%	26%
Always straight up baby	12%	0%	6%

Hmm, I wonder if there is something scientific about guys who hang to the left being more attracted to women and those who flop right dig guys? Oh, and straight guys have an inflated opinion of their penises, but I think we all knew that.

To the men... have you ever attempted auto-fellatio?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male
Never!	47%	16%	22%
Yeah, but no dice	34%	55%	54%
It's possible, but painful	8%	6%	11%
Mmmmhhfmm!	6%	13%	14%
I'd be afraid of driving into the ditch	4%	7%	0%

Urban legend? There are videos out there that prove it is possible. We forgot to ask those who can if they spit or swallow.

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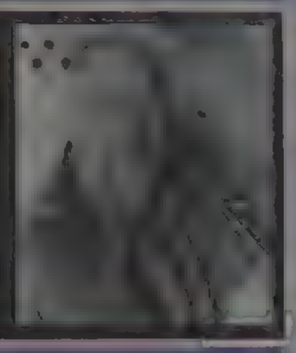

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What was your initial reaction to being rimmed the first time?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Wow, Fucking amazing	27%	52%	55%	19%	50%	28%
Disgusting	3%	19%	3%	4%	4%	6%
Indifferent	6%	13%	8%	18%	10%	18%
Never been rimmed	50%	13%	21%	38%	26%	28%
What is rimming?	11%	0%	8%	15%	10%	8%
Have I got a story for you!	3%	3%	5%	6%	0%	8%

Let's hear the stories.

After a shower, my ex told me to bend over. I didn't think it would be a big deal as we'd played there before but holy shit! The most amazing thing in the world!

I was living in New York City and I was at my boyfriends place. We were fooling around and then he lifted my legs up and started rimming me. It felt surprisingly good though I didn't know at first what was going on. About 15 seconds into it a cockroach scurried across the floor and I screamed and jumped on to my feet. He thought he had hurt me and was worried and confused. I explained why I had actually screamed and then suggested he continue. Which he did

My boyfriend at the time was sucking me off, everything was great. Then he flipped my legs back toward my ears and started running is tounge around my asshole. It felt so good I didn't even want him to stop even after I came on my face.

My first boyfriend sent me over the top eating my ass, I am a small town guy—who woulda known this would even happen. In-fuckin-credible

Damn, check out these numbers. In almost every category the biggest two numbers were people who had never been rimmed and people who absolutely love it. Connection? For those of you who haven't been rimmed, according to this survey, the odds that it will blow your mind are about 8-1. Get licking!.

Since we're discussing asses, is your partner's in play??

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes	51%	84%	84%	26%	46%	35%
No	49%	16%	16%	74%	54%	65%

Before we get to the "with what," we left the people who said single out of this equation. As for the "with what," there were so few interesting answers. Fingers, toys, cocks... blah blah blah. Ice seemed interesting but everything else was fairly vanilla (or is that chocolate?)

And yours?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes	32%	68%	76%	41%	50%	52%
No	68%	32%	24%	59%	50%	48%

As for the "with what," we got a mention of anal beads, a strap on dildo, and the standards but the best two answers were:

As long as it's not the kitchen sink, I'm cool

Whatever fits

As for the results to this question, we were curious so we went back and checked how many people answered that their partners' asses were in play but their's wasn't. You might have already guessed the results based on the statistics above but straight dudes are fucking assholes. 51 per cent of you said your partner's ass was in play and 68 per cent weren't willing to reciprocate? Of all the people who fit into the criteria we just mentioned 83 per cent were male and 83 per cent were straight. Though we don't know if they were all straight males, it was close enough. Guys, if you want to stick something up her ass, you should at least be willing to not be so, ahem, anal about this.

Ladies... do you "squirt"?

	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Never	35%	26%	28%
Once/Rarely	30%	6%	20%
When things go very well	21%	36%	35%
Always/almost always	5%	26%	10%
I've never taken a watergun to bed	8%	7%	4%

Wow, the gay girls are watercannons. The mess they must make. We can only imagine. We're imagining right now; give us a minute. Only the straight girls seem not to squirt. Is that an accusation about straight guys? Probably not.

Oh, and we had a write in ballot from a lady pissed of at us for not offering an "other" on this question. We felt we needed to share. She said:

Why didn't you ask how far the girls squirt? I've had a bridge of water go up to 5 feet. They say women will squirt a max of 2 ounces—ya right! In a good night I can do several cups. You also didn't ask how many times a girl can squirt—once, twice, more? Try a record 40 times in an eight hour period, bay-bee!

Men... how far are you able to squirt?

	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
It just dribbles out	9%	7%	8%
Couple of inches	20%	32%	19%
A foot or so	29%	10%	19%
Hit myself in the face	17%	32%	38%
Hit the headboard	21%	13%	14%
More	4%	3%	3%

Did you answer more? We don't believe you but for the record, you said:

Two metres. Believe me.

Since my teen years, I have always been a big shooter—other gay men are amazed by it. I have huge balls so my factory is bigger than average. I shoot lots and far—there are more of us out there than you think.

One time I squirted over the bathroom stall at my school and it hit another guy taking a dump. He wasn't very happy.

Personal record was 6 feet 7 inches—all the way across the room!

It can happen! I dated a guy who could shoot over the top of the shower like ten feet—its not impossible.

Hmm... 6 feet 7 inches, eh? You measured that precisely? You were masturbating, right? No one would fuck someone that anal-retentive.

Say *YES* to great Spexx ...

even if you thought your partner would say *NO!*

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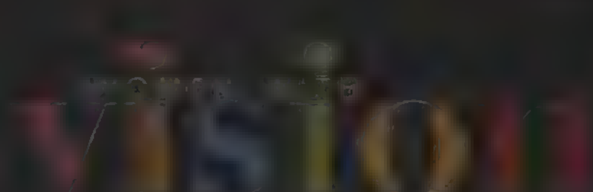

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What do you think about piercings on privates?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
A turn on	21%	10%	18%	28%	25%	24%
A turn off	32%	39%	28%	28%	30%	18%
I'm indifferent	43%	51%	47%	45%	24%	46%
Other	4%	0%	8%	9%	21%	8%

Other? Tell us what you think.

I have a hood piercing—it's hot!

Pussy piercings are rarely on a good pussy, but when they are, THEY'RE FRIGGIN AWESOME.

Prince Alberts creep me out, but frenum piercings and Jacob's ladders are hot.

Nipples are one thing, but running the risk of minimizing sexual or biological function is not one I am willing to take.

The male ones are a curiosity, but a little freaky. Labia or hood piercings, though, are fabulous. I have the latter.

Well, the only group that had more people who preferred them than not was bi women and the group that was the most sure of their thoughts were gay women. What does that say? Beats the shit out of me.

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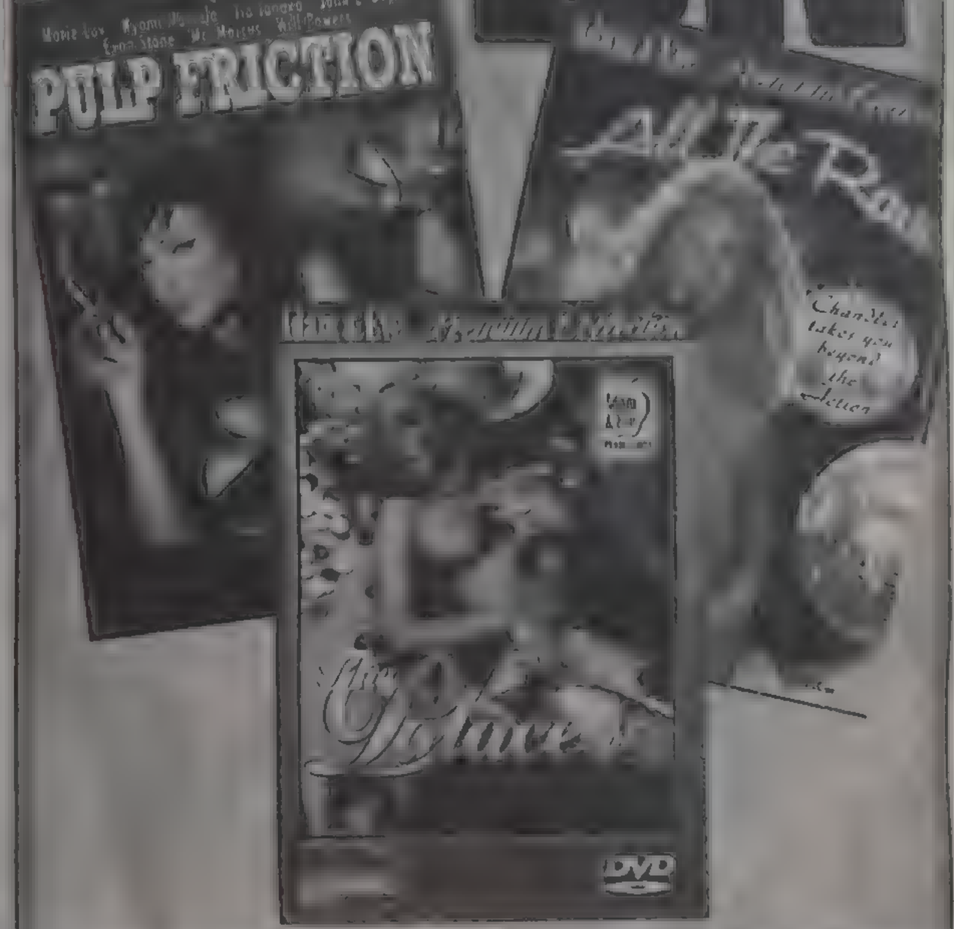

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THE CENTRE FOR WORLD INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH
would like to invite you to the Autumnal session
of the Four Seasons Speaker's Series.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Irene Vernon,
Director of the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity and the Co-Project Director of Advancing HIV/AIDS Prevention in Native Communities

The purpose of this presentation is to provide discussion and analyses of HIV/AIDS among Native Peoples in the United States and some of the initiatives intended to address this crisis. Dr Vernon will also describe the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control to provide resources to strengthen the capabilities of the HIV prevention workforce by ensuring the availability of evidence-based and culturally appropriate Capacity Building Assistance (CBA).

When: September 27th, 2007 • 2:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Where: Room 1112, Edmonton Learning Centre,
Athabasca University, Peace Hills Trust Tower • 11th Floor, 10011 - 109th Street

RSVP: indigenous_events@athabascau.ca
INFO: 780-428-2064, www.athabascau.ca/indigenous

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ZERO TOLERANCE:

CANADA'S HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY UNDER THREAT

While the *war on drugs* raged in the United States, Canada refused to follow and instead took the compassionate and humane approach of harm reduction. Although the term 'harm reduction' may not be familiar to all readers; harm reduction programs such as Operation Red Nose, Safe-Grads, Keys Please, needle safety drop-boxes and needle exchange programs (NEP) are common in Edmonton.

Harm reduction, as it applies to HIV/AIDS work, is based upon the knowledge that in every society the majority of people are going to use drugs; including caffeine, alcohol, and prescription or illicit drugs. The role of unsafe drug use is one of the principal drivers of the AIDS worldwide epidemic; harm reduction helps to save lives and reduce the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C, and various other diseases/ infections. Harm reduction moves people from a place of chaos to a place of stability, but does not demand that they quit using drugs in the process. The evidence-based research on harm reduction clearly demonstrates that the zero-tolerance and zero compassion approach advocated by the war on drugs proponents equaled exactly that: ZERO (Marlatt, 1998).

In 2007, via the federal budget and the new National Anti-Drug Strategy, the Canadian government has signaled a distinct lack of support for harm reduction and a move towards greater enforcement. This takes the form of the potential closure of Canada's first Safe Injection Facility in Vancouver, and a lack of reference to harm reduction programming as a key element within the Anti-Drug Strategy. Reversing Canada's stance on harm reduction would be devastating to organizations that work to prevent HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis.

Alberta is a leader in using a harm reduction approach within Canada; demonstrated through the only annual harm reduction conference for professionals and people who use drugs, a provincial harm reduction programmers network supported by the Non Prescription Needle Use Consortium, a provincial drug users network, and the provision of numerous training and learning opportunities for professionals to incorporate harm reduction into their practice.

HIV Edmonton actively promotes and uses harm reduction to build safer and healthier communities through the prevention of disease. As well, we are actively involved in Edmonton's needle exchange, Streetworks. Streetworks is a stellar example of how harm reduction prevents disease transmission, reduces drug overdoses, decreases emergency room visits, and eases costs on the health-care system. Streetworks' *Overdose Prevention Program* provided training to 50 people in a peer-driven model that has resulted 8 lives being saved. It is the first of its' kind in Canada, and is harm reduction personified.

Harm reduction programs empower people who use drugs to see how small changes can make a difference and are often the first step towards a healthier lifestyle. Perhaps the most important component of working within a harm reduction philosophy is the connection with people who are hard to reach and the ability of staff to establish a trusting, honest relationship with clients. It would be shameful to eradicate this important work.

We urge readers to find out more about harm reduction, to understand how it helps to create a Safer Edmonton, and to advocate for it with their municipal, provincial and federal politicians. For more information contact Lynn Sutankayo, HIV Edmonton Community Education Coordinator at 488-5742 ext 241, or visit the website at www.hivedmonton.com and lookup harm reduction and risk education.

Debra Jakubec
Executive Director and Chair, Streetworks Council

16TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK FOR LIFE: *WHY WALK?*

In Edmonton currently, there are quite a few walks and runs held annually for a variety of causes. The Annual AIDS Walk for Life is one of the longest running events and still attracts a large number of concerned Edmontonians. We might ask, how do these events manage to raise any money? *Why Walk?*

HIV Edmonton is committed to the AIDS Walk for Life for the following reasons. While not a great deal of money, the **Walk for Life does manage to add much needed resources to an overstretched annual budget** and the **Walk for Life is one of HIV Edmonton's major awareness raising events of the year.**

So again, *Why Walk?* We walk for a variety of reasons. Some walk to show support for a loved one who has been infected or affected by HIV/AIDS; some, because they are themselves infected or affected by HIV/AIDS; some walk for the children who become HIV positive through mother to child transmission; and some walk because they know that the numbers of people throughout the world being infected with HIV and dying of AIDS is increasing annually.

Within Alberta, we do have communities that have been and continue to be greatly affected by HIV/AIDS. Join us locally and help make a change in HIV/AIDS globally.

HIV EDMONTON LAUNCHES A NEW WEBPAGE

HIV Edmonton, with the help of HiQSoft Inc., has launched a new web presence. The new site is dynamic, balanced and relates to Edmonton through photography. On our site you will find a full explanation of the work we do in the Capital Health Region. We included information on transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmitted Illnesses (STIs); information on support services and outreach programs; a synopsis of our Research philosophy with an aim to post up-to-date studies and research papers on HIV/AIDS and related conditions; and links to a multitude of sources for those at risk, infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Click on "About Us" and find out who we are. The information on the site is relevant to the whole community whether you are a front line worker in the health and social service sector, an educator or simply a interested community member. Of course, we are constantly doing revisions and updates and invite you to visit often to stay abreast of latest developments in this field.

Please visit www.hivedmonton.com.

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3:00 PM	-	Prizes & Awards
4:00 PM	-	Closing Ceremonies including First Nations Hand Drumming

For more information please go to www.hivedmonton.com. You will also find a link to register online.

Welcome to the jungle, we got fun and games

GET CLOSER TO NATURE (AND YOUR PARTNER) WITH *VUE*'S HANDY-DANDY GUIDE TO DOIN' IT OUTSIDE

BOBBI BARBARICH / bobbi@vueweekly.com

There are two types of outdoor sex: planned and unplanned. They both have their advantages and, depending on your perspective, planning or the lack thereof will enhance your experience.

I've had it both ways. One memorable experience found us high on mushrooms in a park outside a Provincial Court building. Barely concealed behind a robust bush, it was quick and dirty. We could hear people walking on the paths within ten feet of us—I thought it was part of the fun, but in our post-coital pillow (okay, grass) talk, he claimed he was uncomfortable. I was incredulous! Apparently my jeans were in the way, so was his zipper, and he kept slipping in the dewy grass. In hindsight, it could have been less quick and more or less dirty had we thought about what could make sex outdoors great.

NO MATTER WHERE YOU are, inconspicuous sex is easier if clothing cooperates. Commando is a must—there is no sense in letting underwear create a barrier. Choose a skirt or dress that day and get him to leave the tight black jeans at home.

Even fully clothed, mosquitoes are a pain in the ass—let alone when you get your goodies out in the open. DEET and sensitive genitalia do not mix, so be careful in your application. Mosquito repellent is available in lotion form (and could become part of the foreplay!); pump-action repellent bottles are reasonably direct-able, but definitely avoid aerosol sprays. Even with careful spraying, a small breeze will push the fine mist everywhere you don't want it to go

If you're backcountry camping, bears can be attracted by moans and grunts, but you may be in the clear if you're a screamer. If you're in public—a busy campground or park—the sounds of passion can be annoying for those less lucky than you, if not attention grabbing. Bite something or cover your face if necessary.

SEX | OUTDOORS

Again, in a camping situation, the post-coital mess should not be left in the wild. Do not burn or bury used contraceptives. Unless you want to successfully attract every animal around you, don't keep them in your tent, either. Put them in double-sealed plastic bags in your trash, keep the trash away from your tent and carry it out when you leave.

Legally speaking, having sex outside is not exactly illegal, but it depends on the circumstance. While punishable under the Criminal Code of Canada, nudity and "indecent acts" are somewhat open to interpretation. If you're blatantly having sex on a park bench, an opportune officer can charge you with a variety of infractions—if he or she isn't too embarrassed or intrigued to interrupt.

WITH SUCH A LARGE EXPANSE of urban parkland in Edmonton, there is a plethora of parks in which to get it on, inconspicuously or otherwise. A friend told me an eyewitness story: "He was sitting on a park bench in plain view of the walking path. She was sitting on his lap, facing away from him. They had a huge bed sheet wrapped around them. You knew what they were doing, but you couldn't see enough to be sure."

If a park bench is a tad too obvious, simply move away from the path. There are thousands of smaller paths branching off each other within the river valley trail system. However, paths are there because people use them. Have your partner walk behind some bushes or trees away from the path, and watch to see if and how much of him or her you can see. Then commence.

Most of the people I discussed outdoor sex with said they were more often caught during the day. If you want to reduce your risk of being seen, go out after 11 pm when city parks are closed. Then only the park patrol may catch you (and they've certainly encountered this kind of thing before).

OUTDOOR SEX MAY NOT be as cosmic or as comfortable as it looks on television. When choosing where to bed-down, take a moment to investigate what lies below.

I asked an experienced outdoorsman what he considers before pulling out the big gun. "Most native grasses look soft, but are in fact very sharp," he noted. "And bears often crap on them, making them Mother Nature's Punjii sticks." Consider yourself warned.

Despite the beach's romantic reputation, sand gets into absolutely everything. It also rubs and tears skin under friction, especially soft skin soaking in water.

Fallen trees are a great prop. They are often at the perfect height to brace yourself against when bending over Putting greens are smooth and soft, and the danger of being caught trespassing may be exciting for some Stairs cause slivers and bruised backs, but handrails offer fantastic support Again, you're definitely risking getting caught on a staircase.

Every one knows the Legislature grounds have been around the block The grass is well kept, there are dense

CONTINUES ON PAGE 33

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Have you ever told someone you love them and not meant it?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes	41%	35%	34%	56%	51%	52%
No	56%	58%	61%	40%	28%	45%
All the damn time!	3%	7%	5%	4%	21%	2%

Have something to get off your chest? Let us have it.

When I was in my early twenties, I'd say anything if she'd sleep with me.

Have you been married?

It made my life easier … at the time.

I hated my ex-husband, but I thought if I kept saying it, it would eventually come true.

My wife of 25 years with whom I have 4 great kids who I don't want to mess up at this stage of their lives. And then a girlfriend who is great who drives me crazy, but it's not fair to her by not leaving wife and committing to her

I loved him like I love my friends and I love my dog but I wasn't IN love with him. It was totally the E talking.

Well, It seems as though gay girls will say anything. We didn't ask why they lied but does it really matter? Girls also had a 15 per cent greater likelihood of lying about it. Perhaps guys just don't say it. If you don't say it you don't have to lie, right? You insensitive pricks.

Q. WHAT IS THE WEIRDEST IMAGERY THAT HAS POPPED INTO YOUR HEAD WHILE YOU WERE HAVING SEX?

His thrusting motion reminded me of a massive old one-cylinder steam engine I had seen that was once used to haul horse drawn carriages up rail lines in the days before trains in Britain

Big Bird.
Lesbian sex scenes while having sex with my boyfriend.
Clowns dancing around us and cheering us on.
The rotting bananas on the counter
Tina Turner dancing.
A phantom-like woman reaching down from above to massage my back and scrotum. Then she took turns massaging my partner's clit, labia, breasts and inner thighs while I was stroking her with my penis.
Muppets doing it.
The robot droid from Spaceballs saying "fuck me."
Organic chemistry equations
My boyfriend having sex with various old construction workers
He had a handlebar mustache and long hair, so I pictured him as a '70's porn star with a striped sweatband on his head and wrists. (This was last night at my parents house—they are out of town)
Every time I climax, a completely random thought will enter my head like "When will you put the dog in the freezer?" I don't own a dog. It lasts for like a split second and it usually has no relation to reality.
Looking at Trailer Park Boys poster and wondering if Ricki, Julian and Bubbles are proud of my performance.
Mary Poppins flying with her umbrella
My dick breaking
Homer Simpson in a devil costume going "I am Evil Homer"
My mom or my grandma... yuck!
Thinking about Transformers and how awesome they are.
That I was having sex with Jesus while my mother watched. Let's just say I didn't have sex for a while after that
'Wait a minute… what kind of name is Gilligan??"
Beige … I think I'll paint the ceiling beige
Teletubbies
Tetris! Fucking Tetris shapes floating down … turn, damn it, turn!
One night I couldn't stop thinking about sushi and sashimi and tempura. Japanese food!
Construction vehicles—bulldozer, backhoe—don't know why.
Started singing along to "Monday Monday Monday," by Tegan and Sara.

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Bushes everywhere and the voyeur quotient is high. But what about putting some play into playgrounds? There's other all sorts of enticing opportunities. Do not have sex, however, anywhere near or in a playground during the day. Children will have enough problems dealing with seeing their own parents doing the duty, let alone an unknown double-backed beast in broad daylight.

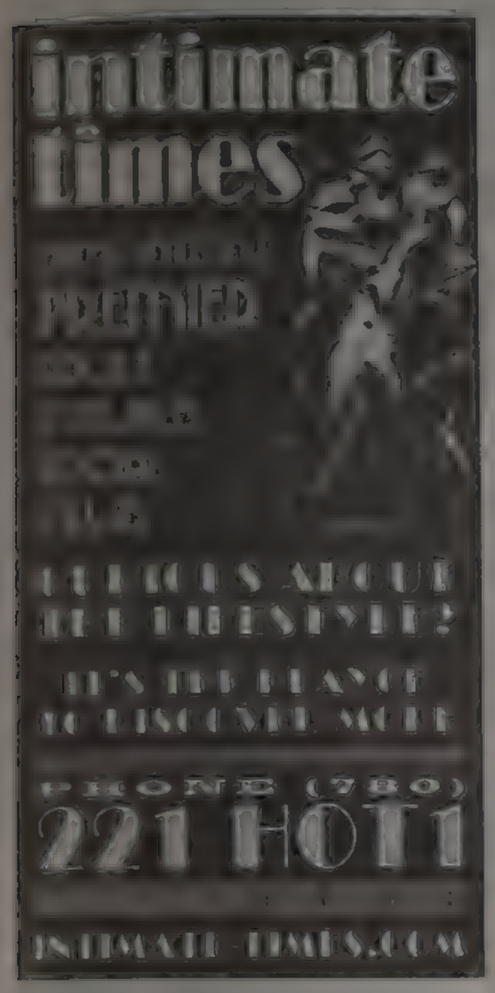
Tube slides conceal you and put a little spice into the missionary position. Have you ever done it on a swing? There's a reason why they named "swinging" after them. Heck, even the wobbly bridge may be a good place to lie down, like your own version of the wash machine's spin cycle. It's unfortunate there aren't any trapezes, but the monkey bars may be a good place to practice before purchasing your own.

Finally, you should also consider the weather. Chattering teeth are not conducive to good sex. Scrotums shrivel up quite impressively when it's cold. Bring a thick blanket, no matter the weather, for concealment and comfort.

The fact that you might be seen is often the most exciting thing about outdoor sex. While your reasons for and locations of sex al fresco are completely up to you, keep these ideas in your goodie bag. You never know what you're going to get. v

Don't fret!!

VUEWEEKLY is still FREE every Thursday!



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WHAT IS THE CLOSEST YOU'VE EVER COME TO HAVING SEX IN PUBLIC?

In a car in an open parking lot. Or at a beach with children around.
I have! And I'll do it again! On Wabamum Beach. With people around.
Messing out in the back seat of her car at the West Ed covered parking lot.
We pulled into a field off the highway one time. She was bent over my hood, but from the nine-thousand-foot-tall she could still see cars driving by. I dunno, it didn't bother me.
On a bike trail while on roller blades,
At a travel rest stop. Someone showed up just after we were finished
Had sex in a portapotty at a racing event with people right outside
In the park over in Millwoods by Millwoods town center in broad daylight
Getting jacked off on a dance floor.
My partner and I played with each other's private parts in a city park under a sleeping bag. After getting more and more aroused we drove to another park, parked the car, walked to the trees near a path leading to the riverbank We hid partly from the public in some short trees and shrubbery while enjoying each other most intimately Needless to say, my partner was aroused to several orgasms during that afternoon of togetherness
On a trail on a mountain in Jasper. In a moving gondola in the Alps. A nightclub bathroom. An airport departure lounge at night. The elevator on a Ferry (we didn't notice it moving ... or the doors opening)
On a trail in the river valley (fucking mosquitoes!)
Hand job on the legislature lawn; blowjob on the lawn of the museum
In the staff room at Alberta College with the security guard
In a booth at Denny's.
Outside of a wedding reception with guests on the patio just around the corner
Photo both at WEM
A rim job in the bushes on Toronto Island
I had sex in broad daylight in Hawerlak Park. She was wearing a skirt and sitting on my lap. We contained ourselves and no one was the wiser.
We were making out behind the hanging sleeping bags in a "Coast Mountain Sports" until an associate found us.
School Playground, Car dealership at night under a truck, on the roof of a bar
On the lawn of an elementary school during the Fringe. It was in the dark at least...
I masturbated on a night flight from Minneapolis under the airplane blankets and totally came.

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

Have you ever dated or had sex with more than one person from the same family?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes, at the same time	9%	16%	6%	4%	10%	6%
Yes, at a different time	10%	13%	16%	8%	26%	33%
No	80%	71%	76%	88%	64%	59%

We asked for stories and this is what we got.

They were identical twin brothers. We were all seventeen. It is one of my greatest moments

A one night stand (after a wedding) with one guy and two months later the guy's cousin

I was a lesbian and I was dating a girl but I had a three way with my girlfriend and her brother and I loved his big cock and now I am with her brother

Before I married my current wife, her daughter and I had quite the time together

It was two cousins who were so afraid that someone would find out about their "indiscretions" with the same sex. By the end of it they both knew about each other. Bastards!

Made out with two brotners at a party, at different times, repeatedly

And there was one long winded diatribe from a guy who claimed to have fucked two sisters in Ottawa. The story went on and on and frankly we found it not believable. Nevertheless, It appears from the results above that if you are a girl and you are dating a girl and you have a sister that you might have competition. Seriously, she is eyeing up your sister right now!

For the right person I have or would be willing to…

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Tattoo their name on my ass	22%	6%	18%	24%	20%	17%
Go on a diet	59%	48%	34%	53%	61%	33%
Get a brazillian/manzillian	47%	45%	34%	73%	38%	67%
Get breast/penis augmentation	14%	13%	18%	14%	35%	15%
Anal bleaching	10%	19%	25%	5%	21%	9%
Vasectomy/tubes tied	43%	13%	25%	28%	26%	27%
Other	13%	16%	11%	15%	24%	29%

Other, what else would you be willing to do to get laid? Don't say convert, we covered that already.

Let them pee on me.

Move continents. Wait 60 years like the guy from Love in the Time of Cholera.

I let my girlfriend scrape her name in my chest—it's been six months now and its still there

Get their name tattooed on my penis.

I'd marry them and raise children with them. Which is, in the long run, a hell of a lot more suffering than anal bleaching

Several people expressed that their partners should accept them as they are. Well, isn't that a nice thought? Anyway, what is it with the bi guys? In no category did they get even close to 50 per cent. Half of you won't even go on a fucking diet? Seriously.

Q. WHAT WORD OR PHRASE TO DESCRIBE YOU WOULD LOOK GOOD ON A T-SHIRT OR BUMPER STICKER?

Unrepentant whore, on a black shirt with pink glitter letters..
Hottie at 10:00
"I was the biggest asshole"
Beware Waterworks Below.
Dark thoughts. Darker desires. Darkest pleasures. Inquire within.
My place … then yours!
So Sexy You Forgot Your Pick-Up Line!
I'm a dirty girl
female body inspector (FBI)
Strictly a rental.
Horny! Always!
"I'm a lesbian trapped in a man's body"
If it's bad, fuck it. If it's good, fuck it again
Cougar in training
White trash beautiful.
Balding and somehow attractive to the young-uns
Better Gay then Grumpy
The Hugganaught
Sex with a nerd: the smartest thing you've ever done.
[illegible] next friend with benefits
[illegible] wallow, it's goin' in the eye!
[illegible] rked whores
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] r car is a bike, it goes nice and slow, it can stay upright for hours, and it helps [illegible] gorous and ready-to-go anytime.
[illegible] batteries. You busy tonight?"
[illegible]
[illegible] may explode under pressure
[illegible] ke Marcia but I fuck like Jan"
[illegible] e carpet and drapes don't match!
Sticks and stones may break my bones but whips and chains excite me
It's not original, but I'd love to get a t-shirt saying "Not everything's flat in Saskatchewan."
I (heart symbol) (maple leaf) (cat symbol/outline)
EMTs—We don't come until you go down.

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

Have you ever used a dating or introduction service?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes, web based	28%	45%	42%	27%	31%	33%
Yes, phone based	9%	12%	8%	4%	20%	15%
Yes, speed dating	4%	3%	5%	5%	10%	6%
Yes, introduction service	3%	0%	3%	3%	19%	5%
No	67%	41%	58%	71%	24%	55%
Other	2%	3%	3%	1%	11%	5%

What did you mean by other?

Do seedy gay chatrooms count?

I have met people on internet sites, however, they were not designed specifically for the purpose of dating/meeting people.

How did it work out?

I am married to someone I met.

This is pretty much the ONLY way I date/meet guys and I've NEVER had a bad experience. I met my current great boyfriend this way as well.

Amazing!! We are still together after 10 months and I couldn't be happier.

I'm engaged!

So far, rather disappointingly. It seems this isn't the best way to find a third party for a threesome.

We had phone sex a few times but when I went to meet him in person, it was way too awkward—we made better debating partners than sexy ones.

I met my current girl of two years through the "Intimate Encounters" section of LavaLife. It was supposed to be just for sex. We hooked up, and we ended up falling in love. We fucked up, didn't we!

I went to eHarmony, and they told me I was part of a 20 per cent that is "incompatible" and it would be "irresponsible" of them to put me into a specific profile.

Met a few guys mostly the guys you meet online are the horniest guys possible. It usually ended up being just a friend with benefits who I lost touch with.

It seems the gay girls are the most inclined to give it a try and, wouldn't you know it, most of the positive answers above came from women. Perhaps there is a connection, or perhaps guys on line really are just trying to get laid

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You're on a first date with someone you like. They tell you they have an STD/STI, do you?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Call them a nasty word and take off?	2%	13%	3%	6%	0%	7%
Politely get up and leave.	20%	19%	11%	21%	36%	13%
Ask which one, you like them but we'll see how much.	62%	55%	71%	51%	41%	55%
Carry on. It doesn't matter	10%	6%	8%	11%	5%	15%
Other	6%	6%	8%	11%	18%	11%

How would you handle this situation?

It doesn't matter. It's the first date, why should it bother you so early into the relationship of knowing each other?

Judge not lest ye be judged

It mostly matters if they're being treated and they practice safe sex now. STDs/STIs happen to people who have sex, and that's nearly everyone at some point in their lives.

I don't know. I've never really thought about this. I guess I would want to find out the specifics of the STI in question so that all the tremendous amounts of mad passionate sex we are going to have would be safe, but I'd be cool with it.

I'd fuck them. I have an STD collection.

At least Edmontonians are polite—well, except for the gay guys, who are three times more likely to get pissy. Interesting how many people would stick around and get more information. Perhaps that's because they might be being treated to dinner. Look further into the survey and you'll find that the most popular answer for a reason for not screwing someone to whom you are attracted is STIs. Hypocrisy?

Same scenario but HAD an STD/STI?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Call them a nasty word and take off?	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%	2%
Politely get up and leave.	7%	7%	8%	12%	26%	17%
Ask which one, you like them but we'll see how much.	53%	58%	45%	58%	36%	48%
Carry on. It doesn't matter	32%	29%	37%	20%	17%	25%
Other	5%	3%	8%	6%	16%	8%

What does other mean?

Ask them when they were last tested, and probably suggest they get tested again if they expect any action to go down with this lady.

Maybe wait a few dates and see if I could trust them—a first date is a little early to take their word on something like that.

I'd ask if they were clean and practiced safe sex now.

I'd want to know which one. We'd definitely be using protection and getting regular testing done if we ended up in a sexual relationship

I'd say, "Why the fuck didn't you keep it?"

It seems that the past is the past with the guys who are 12 per cent more likely to let it go if their date's private no longer glow in the dark. Some women were willing to get over it but as you can see above, certain demands will be placed on their lovers—like proof!

Would you convert or have you converted to someone else's religion out of love for them?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
For the right person	10%	6%	13%	9%	0%	6%
I already have, Shalom	1%	6%	0%	5%	5%	0%
Maybe	14%	6%	24%	15%	41%	25%
No, I am true to my faith	29%	17%	29%	19%	10%	19%
No, I am not religious and I am staying that way	46%	65%	34%	53%	44%	45%

It seems like about one third of you are religion-flexible. Is there nothing you won't do to get laid?

Q. EVER NEEDED MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR A SEXUAL INJURY? WHAT HAPPENED? AND DID YOU LIE TO THE DOCTOR ABOUT IT?

I got a rash on my penis from the cough-drops that my boyfriend was using (he had a cold) after he gave me head. I didn't lie about it, though I did get an odd look.
Burning after anal sex (first or second time, no protection). I said we had oral, he asked about anal, I denied it, he knew I was lying but we both said nothing. Then he shoved the cotton swab up my hole and I winced…
No, but I did knock myself unconscious by knocking my cranium on a headboard once and suspect I had a slight concussion.
I hurt my wife badly enough that she saw a doctor and we couldn't have sex for about a week. Was probably just a little too deep. I never penetrate fully anymore … at least not in all out high speed intercourse.
Almost lost a Ben-wa Ball in her vagina, but it fell out on the way to the clinic
Yes—I once pulled a muscle in my abdomen while getting pulled across a bed. Yes, I lied to the doctor. (My mom goes to the same one and they talk. I need a new doctor.)
Nope, but a friend of mine actually fractured a blood vessel in his penis while he was fucking.
I shot semen in my eye. I was torn about going to the hospital, and thankfully it cleared up before I decided to do so.
Got a yeast infection on my dick
I once got a rug burn on the top of my foot from fucking doggy-style so bad that it was almost burned down to the bone. The sex was so good that I couldn't stop. The sensation of the pleasure I was feeling outweighed the pain of the slow gradual rug burn I was enduring. I still have the scar.

See more great answers at vueweekly.com

Which (male) cartoon character would you most like to sleep with?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Jughead Jones	13%	35%	21%	21%	0%	23%
Elmer Fudd	4%	6%	5%	3%	11%	2%
Quagmire	15%	13%	11%	15%	21%	13%
Bender	15%	13%	16%	17%	17%	17%
Homer Simpson	6%	3%	5%	4%	10%	5%
Other	47%	29%	42%	41%	42%	41%

Yes we admit it. We chose much less attractive male cartoon characters than female. It was not our intent to gross you out but, seriously, tell me Quagmire wouldn't rock your world! Also, before we get to the others, straight guys, seriously: enough with the "I'm straight' and "I'm a dude" answers. Telling us that, from these choices, you most like Bender DOES NOT MAKE YOU GAY! This was for fun. Lighten up. Also, gay guys love Jughead, eh?

Other?

Teddy Ruxpin. We'd yiff, he'd like it, I can tell

Barney Rubble. He may as well be a girl!

Superman!

Kurama from Yu Yu Hakusho. People think he's gay, but I still find him hot. Or Trunks from Dragon Ball Z. I'd sure like to get a Kamahameha Bang from him.

Tin-tin. I think his penis would be too small to be intimidating.

Captain Planet

Jughead Jones is a prude, and the others are clearly not options to be had. I would fuck the shit out of Reggie Mantle, HeMan, Wolverine and possibly Bugs Bunny.

Space Moose

Abe Lincon from Clone High... damn, he's a hottie.

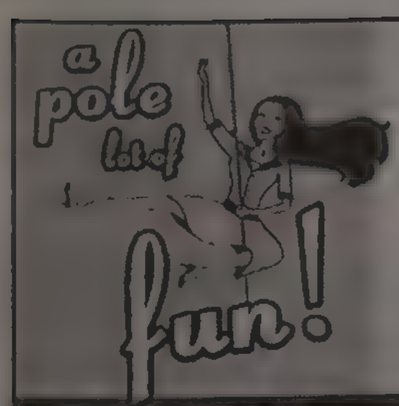
Optimus Prime or Megatron

Pepe LePew

Sesshoumaru from Inu Yasha—the evil badass persona is hot.

He-Man. I think that one explains itself. Could he be more gay?

The dad from American Dad.



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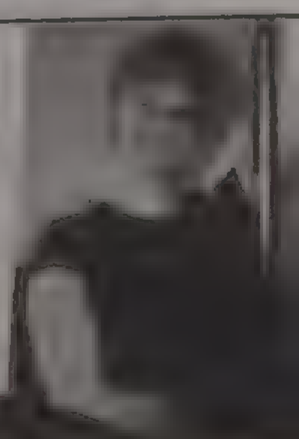

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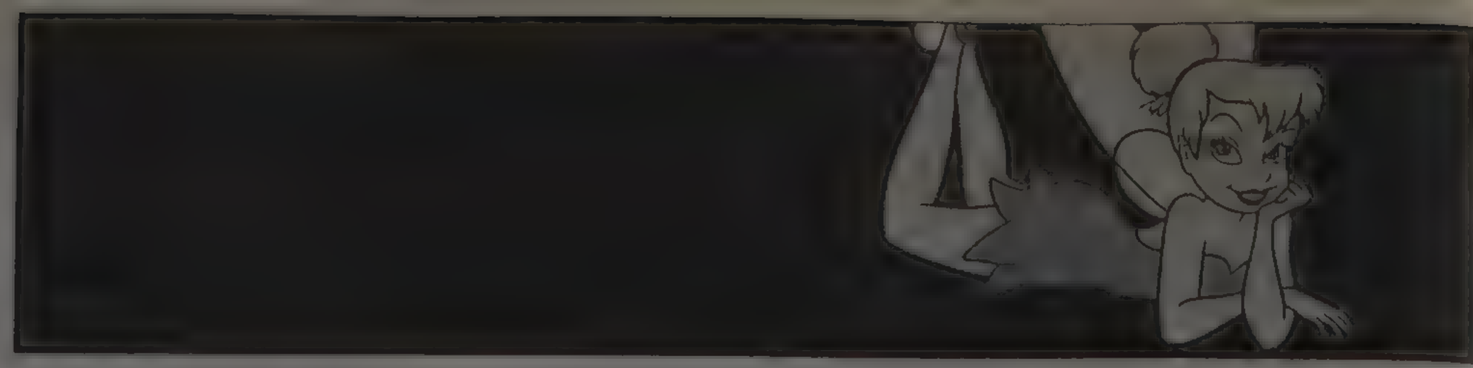

Which (female) cartoon character would you most like to sleep with?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Olive Oil	5%	6%	8%	2%	0%	9%
Betty Boop	16%	23%	8%	27%	25%	29%
Jessica Rabbit	36%	26%	29%	47%	27%	33%
Betty Rubble	17%	12%	16%	7%	10%	11%
Patty and/or Selma	2%	10%	5%	3%	15%	0%
Other	25%	22%	34%	15%	23%	19%

Patty, Selma and Olive Oil just cant give it away. Jessica Rabbit was the run away winner but you just know she's a tease. Betty Rubble would love you through anything—look how long she's stayed with Barney. Anyway, check out our readers' thoughts on who they'd like to anifuck. And for the many of you who expressed this, yes, Lois Griffin should have been on the list. She'd suck the chrome off a tail pipe!

Ariel from the Little Mermaid

Lois Griffin, she's a super freak!

Does Pocahontas count?

Meg from Family Guy

Alice in Wonderland (I love her so much it's not healthy)

Joan of Arc from Clone High

I once thought Nala from The Lion King was hot, but that's kind of weird.

Cartman's Mom.

Betty or Veronica

Tinkerbell. Need I say more?

Misty, from Pokemon. On some basic and slightly disturbing level, anime babes are ridiculously sexy.

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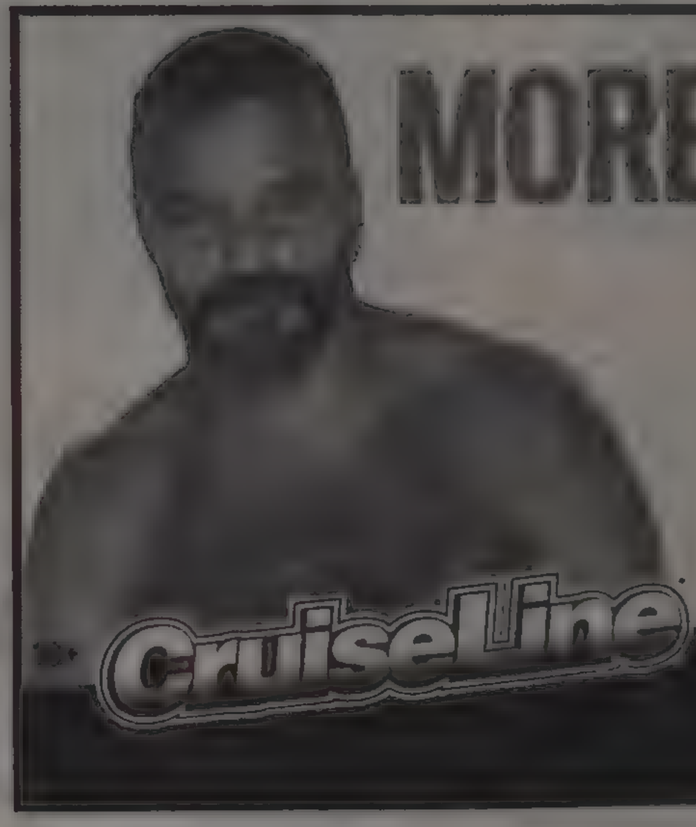
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When visiting an adult film shop, what section do you visit first or what do you reach for?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Toys	22%	16%	26%	52%	30%	50%
Gay DVD	2%	68%	18%	2%	5%	5%
Lesbian DVD	12%	0%	10%	3%	31%	17%
Straight DVD	39%	3%	16%	13%	4%	9%
I've never been	19%	10%	24%	26%	5%	7%
Other	5%	3%	5%	4%	25%	15%

I suppose we should have expected these results. Everyone seemed to gravitate to the section that gave them the best opportunity to see things stuck into people to whom they are attracted

Here is what people who said other told us.

HARDCORE XXXTREME PLAY! (It's gotta be in caps).

Porn with black women or others races (East Indian, Asian) or porn with older women (but not too old!)

S&M supplies

Who goes to the shop anymore? I mean, we are on the 'net, quite obviously. Jeepers. A better question might be "what is your favorite torrent site for downloading high-quality HD porn?"

Bondage section

The usually tiny and overpriced clothing area. They sometimes have HOT shit!

I always have to check out the different flavours of lube

Have you ever given or received head or a hand job in a movie theatre?

Remember, people were allowed to click all that applied.	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Given Head	7%	23%	11%	11%	16%	9%
Received Head	16%	23%	13%	4%	10%	6%
Given Hand Job	13%	16%	16%	32%	34%	40%
Received Hand Job	36%	29%	26%	21%	15%	20%
None of the above	58%	52%	68%	54%	40%	57%

All of a sudden, going to a movie seems much more interesting to us. We should have asked how frequently does your movie going experience progress into being knuckles deep, but for now, we just want to point out that the numbers seem skewed. The girls do much more giving and the guys do much more receiving. It doesn't seem fair. I hope the recipients of such filmgasms take care of business when they get home or to the car. We also asked for stories and the films that inspired the flow of juices—here is what you told us.

I was in grade 9, and it was 'One Fine Day'. I don't even think we got past the opening credits.

It was actually a play. And I continued each time the lights went down during the changing of scenes.

The one with Billy Bob Thornton as a mall Santa, because it was horrible and nobody else was in the theatre so we tried to get our $11 worth

Star Wars will get me to do anything

I was in high school, the movie was Johnny Mnemonic. If you've ever seen the movie, you'll know why getting a hand job is much more appealing than watching the movie.

[illegible] the movie—the sofa in the back of the Garneau. Is it still there? These were high school days..

[illegible] the Princess theatre—we were all alone doing what comes naturally, as gay men do. Damned if I remember the movie.

Kinda embarrassed about this one, but it was Nacho Libre

[illegible] was while watching Happy Feet… in the theatre. I know. How shameful!

Lady in the Water—the movie was boring the theatre was almost half empty. I became the lady full of semen…

We went to see The Fountain, which was one of the most boring movies I have ever seen. There we touched each other until we both came. It was fucking hot and there was hardly anyone in the theatre.

[illegible] the movie to be honest—the hand job was too good. The theater wasn't that busy but he undid my zipper and pulled my cock out and starting playing with me, and I got so fucking hard thinking that someone [illegible] be watching. He made me cum in no time at all. I was afraid at the last minute he would pull my jacket away and I was going to cum over the seat in front of me

Your lover proposes a three way, would you prefer it to be..

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
You, your partner and a guy	3%	84%	47%	37%	20%	32%
You, your partner and a girl	83%	10%	47%	32%	55%	60%
Never, ever will a three way happen!	11%	6%	6%	32%	25%	9%

Well, the boys want a third—and, it seems, very badly. The ladies, not so much.

What if your lover demanded a three way with the additional participant from the gender opposite to your answer above?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Worth a try	23%	42%	60%	29%	5%	42%
Fine, if they reciprocated	22%	3%	18%	11%	16%	9%
No goddamn way	32%	29%	3%	38%	29%	15%
What's in it for me?	17%	23%	3%	19%	22%	11%
Other	7%	3%	16%	4%	28%	25%

Wow, it looks like bi males will fuck just about anything. Straight women expressed what they were willing to do and they are sticking to it—given they are the least likely to participate in the threesome, guys, you should be careful when you ask. She may toss your ass out or ask for your third to have a penis!

What did people who answered other say?

It could possibly happen but there would be definite boundaries and I would have to be extremely comfortable with the person.

Depends on if my partner at the time was a male or female. I don't want to share my man with another chick, but i could totally share my lady with another woman or man.

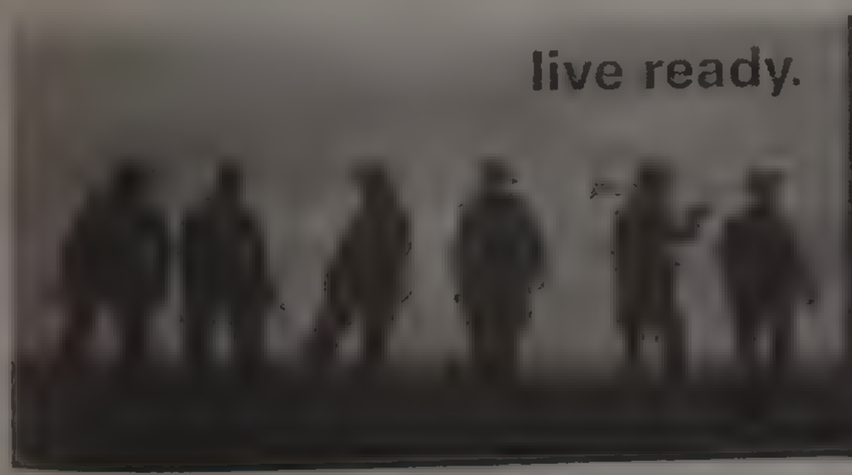
Just as long as I don't have to do the guy

Sure, but (since I'm a female) only if the "extra" guy watched.

As long as our balls don't rub together, and I don't end up getting bummed or vice versa

Being a guy, the fucking hottest thing would be to have a threesome with a guy and a girl

If it was me and two guys, I would insist on not being penetrated at the same time, but if it was me and two girls or me and a guy and a girl, then yes and okay.



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How open is or was your relationship with your parents about sex?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
We talk about everything	18%	13%	16%	19%	20%	13%
They don't think I have ever had sex	15%	13%	16%	20%	20%	20%
They told me about Penises and Vaginas and that is where it ended	31%	32%	42%	25%	16%	32%
Disgusting	16%	19%	3%	9%	0%	9%
Other	20%	23%	26%	28%	44%	30%

Why are guys so much less thrilled talking to their parents about sex? They've had it. Where the hell did you think you came from? Trust us, about a year before you were born, your parents were doing some kinky shit. Ropes and hot wax were probably involved. They might be able to teach you some tricks.

Those of you who said other told us:

Whenever it came up I generally tried to shut down the dialogue by proclaiming my theoretical expertise.

My mom and I are the same—horny as hell—but we don't discuss it in too much detail (usually).

My dad and I have never discussed sex, although my mom says he's not very into it.

Don't come home pregnant!!

My dad told me there was "scary shit out there" and to "use a bag"—I'm still working through the trauma

Closed. My mother was a nun. Seriously

My mom told me to have sex with a few people before I got married—she believed waiting until marriage to find out if two people are sexually compatible was a major contributor to the divorce rate.

My parents don't know about sex—I was born of a virgin.

[illegible] talked about anything even resembling sex with my parents, except for really fucked up "you'll get a girl pregnant!!" chats from my evil mother. From when I was about 8. She really fucked with my views on [illegible]

My parents are Christians, so sex, sexuality and sexual heath were not discussed. They did catch me with porn once (or more than once, who knows), but there wasn't much of a conversation about that either.

The only discussion I had with my parents regarding sex was with my Dad, who assured me I couldn't get VD from a toilet seat.

[illegible] accidentally stumbled upon their sex drawer. There was webbing and something leather that might have been a whip.

My [illegible] ng pregnant at 17—she ruined it for the rest of us, as we were considered unbridled sluts until proven otherwise

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Have you ever been persuaded to have sex without protection?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes	63%	48%	61%	59%	70%	68%
No	37%	52%	39%	41%	30%	32%

Wow, there are a lot of people willing to have nasty shit rolling through their veins just for a fuck. Imagine how massive the condom industry would be if the other 60 per cent of you wrapped it.

Have you ever persuaded someone else to have sex without protection?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes	47%	32%	49%	37%	50%	50%
No	53%	68%	51%	63%	50%	50%

Same comments as above. Except, wow, I never had a screw so good it was worth dying for.

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Do you use protection when engaging in oral sex?

	Straight Male	Gay Male	Bi Male	Straight Female	Gay Female	Bi Female
Yes	8%	16%	13%	9%	25%	13%
No	58%	71%	66%	54%	31%	50%
Never had it	12%	3%	16%	15%	14%	12%
Don't need to as I'm in a monogamous relationship	22%	10%	5%	27%	30%	28%

This question was an evolution from one offered to us from Planned Parenthood. One of their staff suggested we ask people if they floss before an outing when they expect to have sex. We asked what the point was of that question. They told us, if you floss, you are likely to break the skin on your gums and thereby increase the likelihood of getting a disease as you lick the nasties of your fuck buddy. Well this seemed a reasonable tangent, so there it is. We never considered it before. Perhaps now the 50 odd per cent of you who answered no will reconsider. Happy oralizing. (Is that a word?)

That is it. You've now seen the results of our Third Annual Sex in the City Survey. We hope you've enjoyed reading about all the kinky shit that your neighbours and co workers do, or at least claim to do since there is no way to prove whether or not they are making all this shit up. We know not all of you are making it up since, in Edmonton alone, there are three swingers (I mean alternative sexual lifestyle) clubs. And since our photo shoot was taken in one of them, we know some of you are balls deep in someone right now. So, Edmontonians, enjoy the next twelve months, have as much sex as possible and we'll ask you about your exploits next year. Happy fucking!

What's the big hurry, buddy? You got a hot date or something?

SEX | SPEED DATING

JOEL SEMCHUK / joel@vueweekly.com

If you don't mind a little bit of blind date anxiety, Edmonton Date Night has got hooking up figured out. A wide variety of casual, arranged dating environments will get you over the initial awkwardness into a very social and open evening.

Kevin Wolchansky has been in charge of Edmonton Date Night for the last three of its six years and in that time has helped many Edmontonians meet each other in a variety of environments. During Wolchansky's involvement, Date Night has not only grown to nearly double its original size in terms of speed dating nights, but also provides courses in dating and dating after divorce, and hypnotherapy for those who have difficulty entering any dating scene.

Most notable, however, is Wolchansky's tropical singles vacation. This year this trip is in the Dominican; twenty men and twenty women flown to a singles resort where Wolchansky arranges a speed-dating event on the very first day. Then "they spend the rest of the week meeting their matches," Wolchansky explains. Having the ice broken so quickly ensures a more sociable week since, as Wolchansky puts it, "[Speed dating] is really fundamentally based on first impressions." The premise seems to work, the first ever tropical singles getaway resulted in several marriages

WITH A MORE upscale crowd arranged to meet in a venue like Steeps Urban Teahouse, for example, and the younger set meeting at places like On the Rocks on Jasper Avenue, Wolchansky has his evenings tailored to the people involved. For around $40 participants will be given a card, spend six minutes with up to 14 different people and then hand in your card. A few days later Wolchansky will contact you with (hopefully) the contact information that people who like you will have authorized him to give.

Drinks and finger food are provided, and Wolchansky is quick to say that most of the crowd will hang around long after the actual Speed Dating part is finished. Even people who met through it and broke up will return. ▼

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Oh baby! Oh, baby...

SEX AFTER KIDS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL

JAY SMITH / jay@vueweekly.com

SEX | PARENTHOOD

'You can see why the mood isn't exactly set for a hot sexual encounter, when the couple crawls exhausted and exasperated into bed after barely seeing each other or talking all day," says Janet Adler (not her real name), mother to one toddler and some seven months pregnant with the next, thus proving—as Britney Spears, Heidi Klum, and many other less illustrious women have before her—that sex after babies is possible.

After all, she says, the parents of a new born have been "spending the whole day caring for a crying baby—or, in my partner's case, working at his office all day on no sleep and coming home to a crying baby and a bitching, frantic girlfriend."

Welcome to the world of sex amidst young children. With the inordinate amount of attention paid to actions leading to the making of babies, the childless must sometimes wonder about the gaping abyss in popular discourse surrounding sex after having babies.

As Adler's remarks indicate, however, this lacuna is not just because the intense physical, psychological and social assaults on a new mother (and her partner) are too complicated for our tits-and-ass culture. It's because there isn't always much lovin' going on after these assaults.

MEDICAL EXPERTS DECREE that one should wait six weeks post-partum to resume "marital relations." But if you didn't tear, didn't have an episiotomy, and didn't have a caesarean, then your midwife or doctor may give the green light substantially earlier.

This, of course, makes getting back into the sack as soon as possible seem desirable, even necessary, if yours is a "normal" and "healthy" relationship, but the reality may be quite different. Lana Gilday, doula, RN and mother, concurs.

"Please don't beat yourselves up if you feel it's taking 'too long' to get back into the swing of things," she says. "Remember everything your body's been through and is still going through. If you are breastfeeding, the hormones are still raging."

Given that a women's body is not ready to sustain another pregnancy immediately after giving birth, it's not surprising that many women find they need some sexual down-time once the kiddo has squeezed out of their vagina. The hormones behind breastfeeding also have the nifty side effect of nullifying many women's sex drives.

As anyone will tell you, however, a sex drive has a substantial psychological component. Both the birthing woman and her spouse may need some time to recover psychologically from the birth experience itself. Yes, we're talking about what happened to the girly bits.

The graphic detail today's supporting spouses are expected to witness means plenty of opportunity for unfortunate images to be etched permanently into grey matter. Imagine the attentive partner watching with anticipation the last two pushes: something resembling a little alien head debuts from the lady's posterior region, and then just stays there for the eternity until the next contraction pushes the baby out. Maybe it makes a suitably alien angry face at supportive spouse. Regardless, only time can allow the vagina to be considered as a sexual organ again.

Ditto for the lady whose lady bits were so contorted.

"I felt for months that there was something wrong with my vagina vulva, that it had been misshapen or 'broken' by the birth of the baby," says Adler about the delay that she and her partner had in resuming 'normal' sexual relations. Despite assurances from her midwife that everything was indeed, normal, she needed time to adjust. In the end, she concludes: "Do your Kegels and don't freak out about [your vagina]!"

That said, it's not always psychological. Gilday points out that, "If sex is painful six months postpartum please tell your health professional, as there are several treatable conditions that may cause vaginal discomfort. Two of Gilday's close friends had this happen to them, six and 12 months postpartum, respectively. So it's more common than you may think.

THEN, OF COURSE, THERE is the fact that society stamps a stereotype on new mothers.

"A modern woman's identity takes a major battering when she finds herself at home alone with a baby all day, overwhelmed by all the feeding, cleaning organisation and etcetera that comes along with the job description," Adler says. "It's easy to feel like a housewife rather than the woman your partner fell in love with. And the feeling of being shuffled into the subordinate position in society is not much of a turn on."

Meanwhile, fathers oftentimes find themselves caught between the expectation that they contribute equally (or near-equally) to the disastrous household and the fact that their fathers probably didn't.

Overcoming this disparity in social roles, according to Adler, takes more than a dozen roses.

"Guys: forget about dramatic displays like serenading her from the parking lot of the apartment building," she advises. "The best demonstration of affection for the mother of your new child is to HELP HER OUT!

"Post-baby courtship might just be you doing the laundry while she gets a nap in," she adds. "You'd be surprised by how much more she loves you when she wakes up."

And you know what can happen when you're feeling lovely... ▼

Let's talk about sects

UNCOVERING THE INS AND OUTS OF MUTAH, ISLAM'S HOTTEST DATE NIGHT

OMAR MOUALLEM / omar@vueweekly.com

SEX | RELIGION

Imagine getting married and knowing that your vows will eventually expire. After a year, a month, three weeks, maybe just an hour, you will part ways from your spouse, no strings attached. It has nothing to do with irreconcilable differences and everything to do with mutah nikah, or "pleasure marriages," a rare but still prevalent 1400-year-old Shi'a tradition of marrying temporarily, sometimes just for sex.

Mutah goes back to the Hijra, Muslim's Muhammed's original migration from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina). "It was a temporary situation for people who were away from home," says Syed Muhammed Rizvi from Toronto's Jafari Islamic Centre. "Even for pilgrimage, people used to go for three, four months... [So] if a person is in a situation where he has two choices—one is adultery or fornication, and [the other is] mutah—then of course mutah would be the legal way."

Historically and contemporarily, mutah doesn't just benefit travelling men, it also helps women, too, many of whom are widows and single mothers. Because the man is obligated to commit a dowry, the funds helped secure the woman's survival. Depending on what her situation is, if she has kids—and if so, how many—a generous dowry is given.

Although contracts are the norm, it doesn't require one at all, just a verbal agreement. If things don't work out, it's just a matter of the man saying, "I give you the remainder of the time." The woman is required to remain chaste for two months before marrying someone else to ensure she is not pregnant from the previous relationship.

LITTLE HAS CHANGED in the process from the seventh century to now. But these days, the ancient tradition is being given a modern makeover.

A website called Mutah.com stopped operating in 2001. While it still survives as a step-by-step guide for mutah contracts, it used to be an online matchmaker for many, many Muslim men (and, well, three registered women).

An Orange County divorcee profiled as SnowWhite writes, "I am looking for a mutah marriage that is short term. I am not serious about ... permanent marriage. However, if that is what happens I will be happy either way ... I mostly want to stay away from sin."

For Christian-to-Muslim convert Nargis, from Colorado, mutah was superior to regular dating because it involved a commitment before God. "I am not interested in mutah to 'play around.'"

Nargis has had mutahs with five different men, and multiple mutahs with two of the five. The longest was around a year, and the shortest a few months. As for her dowries, "I've seen anything from a piece of jewelry to a car to a Koran." Although she's never felt exploited by mutah, she warns that it can leave women vulnerable.

"Women are more likely to be unhappy with the situation and have a desire for it to lead to something permanent," she says. "I think bad situations are more likely to occur when the relationship is kept secret."

In Iran, where mutah is most common, the issue has become a sensitive one. "There is definitely a need for regulation on the issue," says Syed Rizvi. "I think the law even requires that mutah be registered now."

Reza Aslan, a Middle Eastern analyst for CBS News and author of *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*, says, "It's quite a common practice for prostitution. Instead of sleeping with a prostitute you sign a mutah contract for one hour or two hours. ... The dowry becomes the payment."

In Iraq, mutah was outlawed under Saddam Hussein, but after his removal it experienced a strong re-emergence. Shiite lawmaker and women's rights activist Salama Al-Khafaji supports mutah but told USA Today it was "an unhealthy phenomenon." She's afraid too many men are using it to exploit women for sex. She wants to see workshop campaigns for young couples stress the importance of permanent marriage.

MANY SUNNI MUSLIMS and clerics repudiate mutah. The disagreement between the two sects goes back to the original schism when the second caliph Umar bin Khattab abrogated mutah practices. The group of Muslims who did not support his caliphate to begin with eventually became the Shiites.

Syed Rizvi writes in his book *Marriage and Morals in Islam*, "Umar declared mutah as haram [illegal]. It goes without saying that a decision by Umar has no value in front of the Qur'an and the sunnah!"

Nargis has noticed many Sunnis are interested in mutah and inquired with her about it. "I don't know if they did it or not. Some Sunnis, particularly in the gulf, I think, engage in a practice called misyar, which is marriage with intent to divorce. Thus, in effect it becomes a temporary marriage." She adds, "I think mutah is better because [it is] clear up front, and no divorce [process] is involved."

Reza Aslan sees it in more pragmatic terms: "When you're a persecuted minority, in an empire that basically sees you as an enemy, you come up with ways of making things work. Another famous Shi'a practice is taqiyyah, pretending you are not a Shi'a in order to thrive. And mutah is kind of the same thing. [It allowed Shiites] to maintain their community and flourish in an environment that can be hostile."

Aslan says it's most beneficial for widows because legally and socially they're not as protected as a married woman. "Sometimes temporary marriages give them an opportunity later in life to get the same kind of benefits that a married person would have. It's a practical thing."

But Aslan does warn that it clearly favours men more than women. Because a woman is usually expected to maintain her chastity, any previous marriage of any kind "lowers her stock." This is why most mutah marriages are kept a secret from friends, families, or in the case of polygamous men, other wives.

For Nargis, she is happy to share her mutahs with the people she knows, and it's usually the man who keeps it secret. But she concedes, "I don't bring it up a lot just because it can be a pain to explain to someone who doesn't know anything about it." ▼

Tantra Sex

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Physically speaking, Tantra sex allows us to extend lovemaking and interpersonal connections. The teachings go into detail about the benefits of surrendering and flowing your energy, relaxing your body, breathing and using sound while moving your body in sexual union while you have greater awareness and non-judgment. It offers men and women greater possibility to become multi-orgasmic. It calls for and teaches how through opening to intuition anyone can become an extraordinary lover.

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Namaste *Janet Lee*

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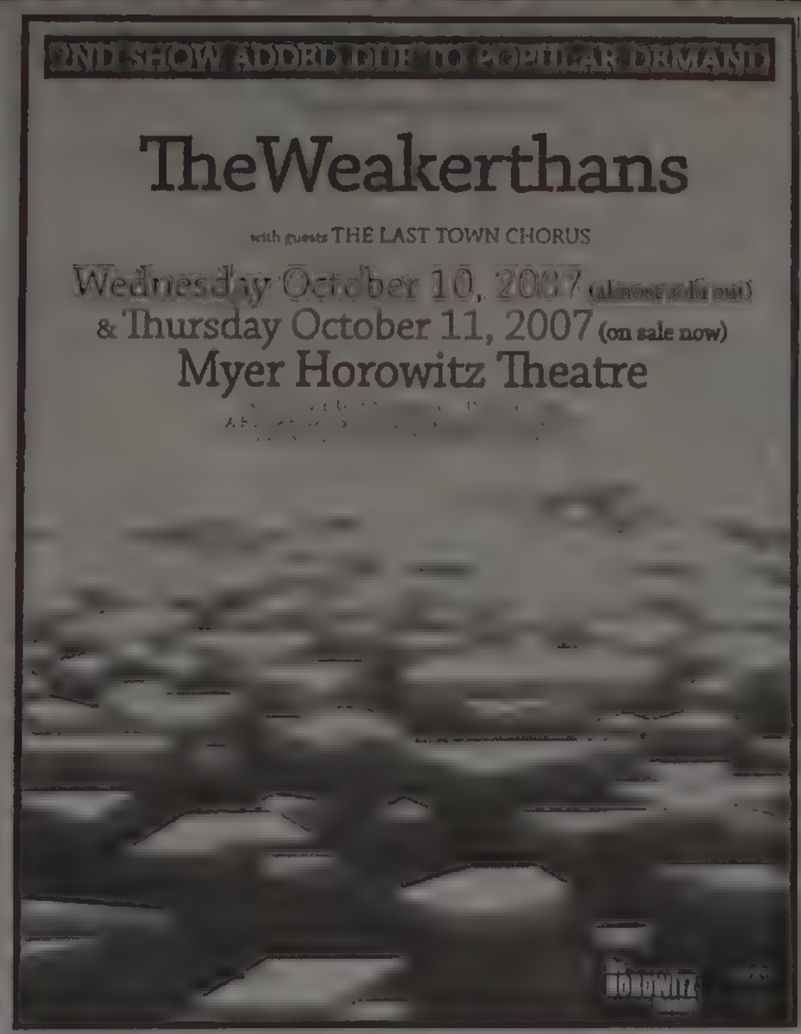

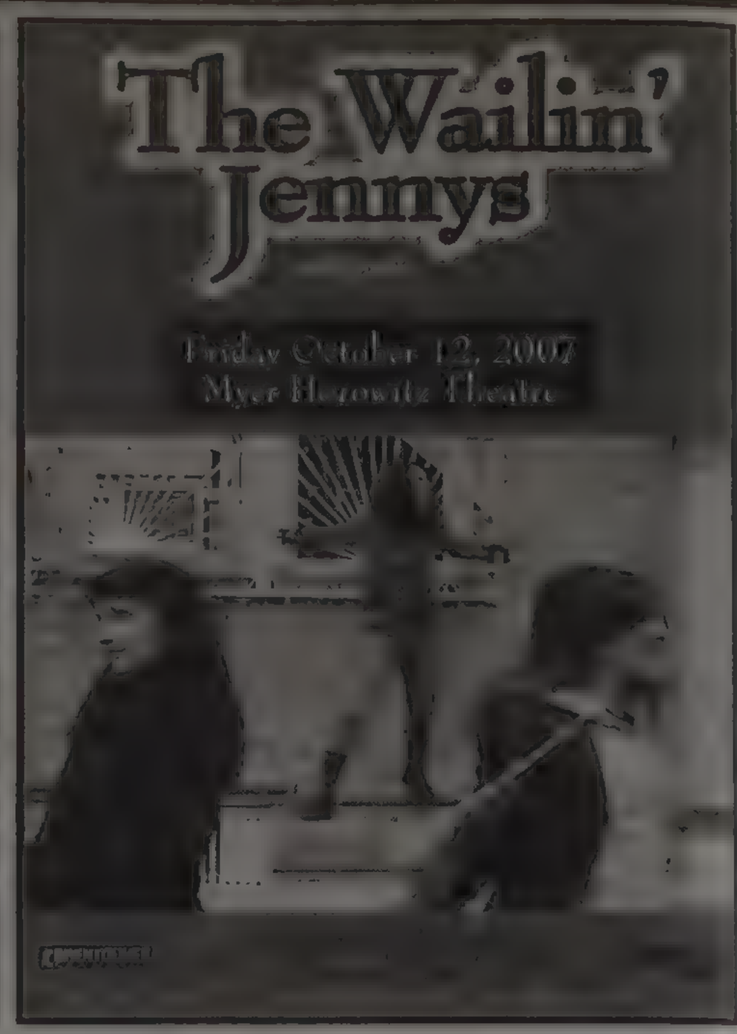

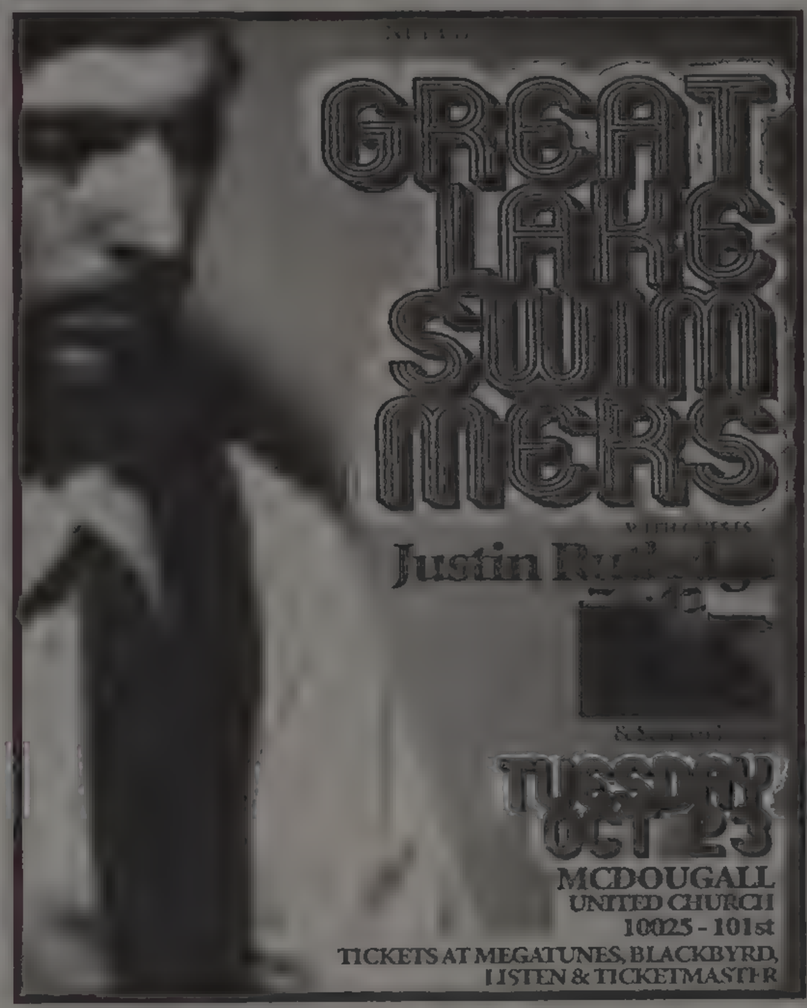

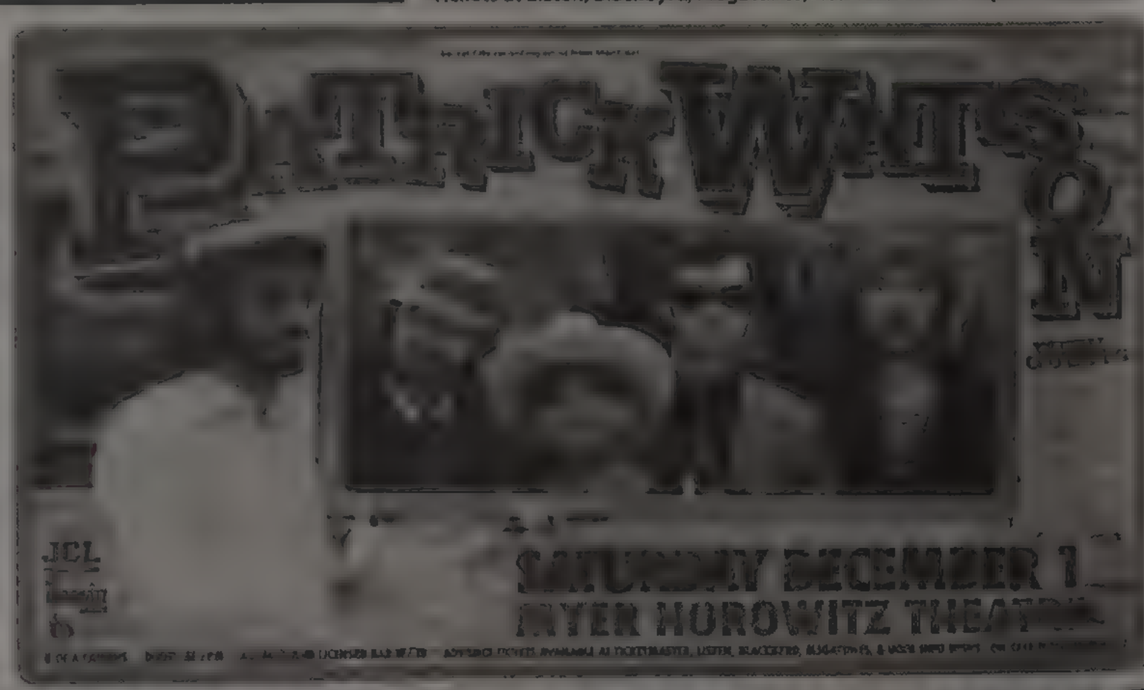

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Strip Club Cuisine: the hamburger or the taco?

MS O'GENEST / msogenest@vueweekly.com

Within two clicks, I can watch a nun take a shit in a priest's mouth. Online, for free, I can watch animated teenagers gang-raped by tentacles or hardcore porn in three-minute segments. Why the hell would I pay a cover charge to watch a woman strip in a room full of transfixed strangers?

Spare me your hipster posturing: it's totally hot

I can go out to shoot pool, have hot chicks bring me drinks, and when the conversation lapses I can watch naked women gyrating on stage. Why not hit three south side clubs for an appetizer, dinner and dessert voyage of discovery, all served with a side of naked breasts? Sinbad never had it so good.

DISH PEELERS

I BEGAN MY QUEST at **Airways Pub** in Nisku. The building housed a hotel and restaurant from the original oil boom. These days, it caters to the oilpatch: a huge plywood board on the side of the road is spray-painted with "Rig Pigs Welcome."

Past the gravel parking lot, the interior reflected the exterior. A warehouse-like space was filled with pub tables and a T-shaped stage with four brass poles and two ceiling-mounted horizontal bars. Three men in the front row were diligently trying to land coins on a big-breasted brunette's shaved pudendum.

As I toyed with the anachronistic ash tray on my table, a bleached-blonde server approached to get me a drink. They only had Bacardi's oddest flavours in their cooler selection, so I settled on raspberry ($5.25) and settled in to watch the end of the first dancer's performance.

I admired her curves and the pretty face above them as she demurely wrapped her floor show blanket around her naked body and left the room "Hotel California" blared at an uncomfortable level while I glanced over the menu. My cooler was unfortunate—syrupy sweet and refreshingly cold—but my expectations weren't high.

Airways serves classic '80s pub food, consisting of wings, rings and things deep-fried. There were some salads, a soup and sandwiches I hadn't seen on a menu for years. After a brief consultation with my server I went with the dry ribs ($8.95)

The next dancer, slender and beautiful with long dark hair and more than a hint of Métis, had begun to skip around the stage in the short

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time it took to prepare my ribs. I felt myself responding as she met each eye among her small audience. I nodded absently at my delivered ribs and kept watching, unconsciously moving closer to the stage. Now I know how those front-row seats filled up. Her lamé bikini top and flowing, gauzy skirt landed in a pile.

After a few minutes of licentious enthusiasm, I shook it off and returned to my red plastic basket of dry ribs. These days, an $8.95 appetizer whets the appetite and nothing more. At Airways, I found out what $9.95 worth of dry ribs looked like. The mandatory black light gave an unhealthy greenish hue to the heap.

I plunged into the hot, moist chunks of boneless pork shrouded in their crisp exteriors. As I'm sure they expected, I ignored the token carrot and celery slices included with an optimistic tub of Ranch dressing. I never even made it down to the bed of nacho chips before I realized that this appetizer was intended to be shared with a group.

I wiped my mouth with satisfaction and left a generous tip for the ribs. I paused for a bit to admire the exotic beauty who was down to her carefully shaved glory. I dragged a few toonies along the stage and earned a smile before I left for my next venue.

I had to adjust myself a little before I could get into my car.

MY PULSE SLOWED on my way to **Showgirls**, where I dropped a $6 cover and paid $6.25 for a drink before I found out the kitchen was closed. I watched a statuesque blonde in Nike wear ("Just do me!") do controlled spins around the onstage poles before I left.

On my way to my next destination, I checked out the Showgirls menu. A long appetizer list was paired with a picture of a "naughty schoolgirl," as were the burgers and sandwiches on the other side of the page. The prices clustered on the friendly side of $10. I wouldn't have minded trying the Teriyaki Chicken [sic] burger or the Philly cheese steak, but would have settled for the honestly described Deep-fried calamari. A steak-and-shrimp special and the Chinese food on the back were particularly inspiring.

At **Diamonds Gentlemen's Club**, my last stop of the night, I found street parking and walked the block and a half to the busy club. Flashing lights and several tour buses clustered around Diamonds. After a brief wait, a handshake with the tuxedoed doorman and a $6 cover charge, I entered the strange cross between a lounge and a peeler bar.

The décor was restrained and rather fine: dark walls, furnishings and floor made a muted contrast with the soft earth tones of curtains that blocked off VIP areas. Diamond-shaped mirrors on the walls reflected steady neon and random flashes of light from the stage, which of course dominated the long, narrow space.

When I entered, a brunette was offering the beginning of her floor show to the most generous clients in the front row of seating. She settled in front of three twentysomethings in baseball caps who employed loonies to knock her promotional cards off her body. I took a table and a lovely server came to take my drink order and bring a menu.

Once the performer left the stage, one of the staff cleaned the poles and collected the change for the dancer. I found this dignified, compared to a naked woman crouching to clutch at the thrown tips. Between dancers, screens dropped from the ceiling to display the Best of YouTube and truck commercials.

My server arrived with my Mike's Hard Lemonade ($6.25) and a menu. She mentioned that the fare was changing in the next week or so, but I was happy with the list offered. There was a surprising selection of appetizers, burgers/sandwiches, entrées and both Chinese and Japanese cuisine. Only four items popped over $10, including the 8oz steak.

Unfortunately, the kitchen was unprepared for a sushi order (in a strip club, I couldn't resist) and I had to default to the very popular Ginger Beef ($10.50) instead.

It was then that my jaw dropped. The newest performer was a tanned young woman with long, sandy blonde hair and stunning C-cups. She wore an aquamarine and hot pink bikini top with garters and leggings of the same stretchy material. She began her set with a slow, fluid strut that challenged every libido in the room. She had barely detectable pierced nipples and what looked like a dragon partially encircling her pierced navel. How I wished I could see her ... ink more closely.

She commanded every eye in the room with slow spins around her poles and pauses in the hair-ruffling breeze of the stage's fan.

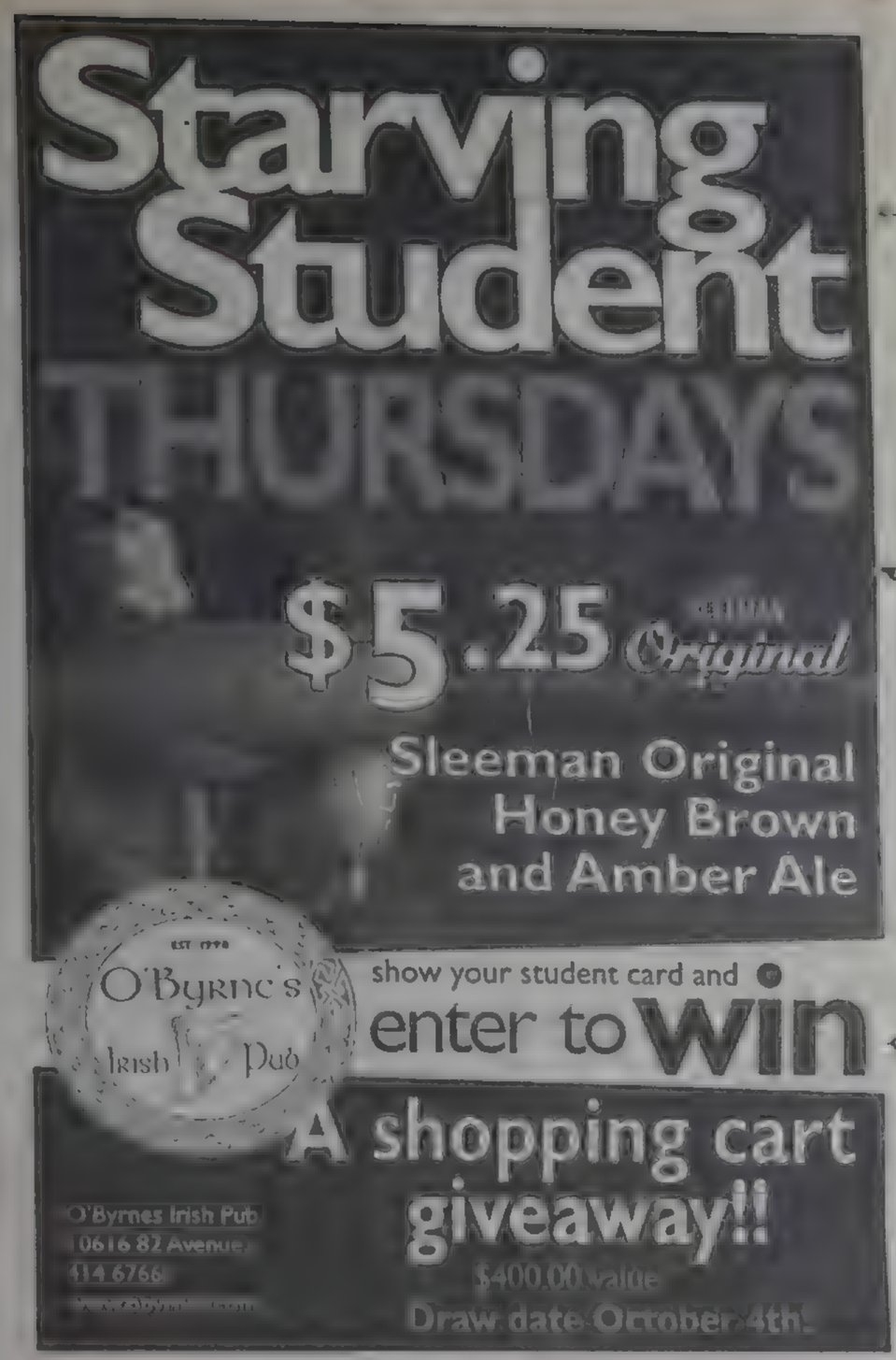
I DIDN'T NOTICE it at the time, but my entrée arrived almost immediately. The large oval plate was evenly split between a mound of white rice and an equally substantial mound of dark, crisp ginger beef. Shredded carrot and green pepper livened up the colour palette, and the flavour was all fire. It wasn't hot, but strongly spiced and plentiful. The rice sopped up much of the pool of sauce at the bottom, which made it an additional treat.

A tiny brunette who was nearly bursting out of a black bikini kindly let me finish my meal before offering a VIP dance. Imagine how many of my fantasies she could fulfill. She would continue dancing—and more—without charge, just because she was so drawn to me and ..

Ah, who was I kidding? *Vue Weekly* would never pick up the tab for a lap dance. I thanked her kindly and watched her as she walked slowly away. I left soon after, dropping a bill near where the next dancer was on hands and knees in her PVC French maid's outfit. With a final nod at the doorman, I was out.

The different strip clubs of the city offered different experiences. Airways was a classic nudie bar with solid retro cuisine. Showgirls was a decently menued dance club where they only allowed one person on the dance floor at a time. Diamonds was a lounge, with more refined lounge cuisine, full of semi- and fully naked women hired to serve and/or entertain.

The experience you choose is up to you. Just bring cash to tip the girls. ▼



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Finding the foods that fuel the fire: an aphrodisiac taste test

ELLA JAMESON / ella@vueweekly.com

Amy parted her lips and ran her moist, pink tongue along them. She left a glistening layer of moisture that shone in the dim light. Holding a stalk of grilled asparagus above her head, she turned her open mouth upwards to accept the creamy white sauce collecting at the tip.

Aphrodisiacs, I recently discovered, come in many varieties. Some are thought to enhance the libido through their similarity in appearance to the human sex organs, such as bananas, escargot or Amy's lucky asparagus. There are those that enhance blood flow to the nether regions, making us more aware of our carnal needs. Some foods play havoc with the most erogenous organ in the body—the brain—in a biochemical game of footsie with our arousal center.

Finally, some aphrodisiacs reputedly offer the virility of the hapless animal to which it used to belong. Tiger penis supposedly provides men the virility of an angry cat that woke up to find he was missing his "little tiger."

I recently invited a group of open-minded friends to indulge in a haphazard banquet of aphrodisiacs with an orgy of options. I wanted to expose them to as many known libido-rousing foods as possible, both modern and historical. A few lucky friends could get lucky.

The Kama Sutra has numerous recipes for licorice-based dishes, the smell of which are thought to enhance arousal and blood flow to the sexual organs. I started the evening by serving a bowl of black Australian licorice sticks, potent with the smell and flavour of licorice root. Everyone politely chose a piece, but it certainly wasn't the carnal canapé I had hoped it would be.

I SERVED SALTY kalamata olives and a bowl of freshly made guacamole. Olives and avocados are thought to enhance male virility, perhaps explaining why Mediterranean men are known for their sexual prowess. Watching one of my guests manipulate the fleshy olives and extricate a pit with his muscular tongue was enough to make me wish I were a pimento.

I had considered serving cocktails, but since coffee can prolong erections and increase libido, I chose a rich Nigerian brew spiked with whole cardamom seeds designed to stimulate sexuality. Although one or two alcoholic drinks may serve as a social lubricant, any more discourages sexual pleasure and longevity. Having been the victim of whiskey-dink in the past, I opted not to introduce booze to our sexcapades.

At Billingsgate Seafood, I had bought a dozen fresh Malpeque oysters($12.99). Casanova was reputed to consume 50 oysters a day in pursuit of staying power, and with 12g of protein per dozen, he may have been on to something. Aphrodisiacs are named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, beauty and sexual rapture, whom reputedly sprang from the ocean in an oyster shell.

Still alive in their protective shells, cooking them certainly didn't put me in the mood for romance. I grilled them on the barbeque, slipping a spoonful of garlic butter into each shell as it opened. Once the butter was bubbling, I broke open the shell and offered my guests a shot of protein-rich libido on the half-shell. Surprisingly, despite the queasiness I felt at cooking them, I had to admit they were delicious, if not a little sexy

I watched Michael bring the scalloped shell of a grilled oyster to his lips and tip it back and I felt a surge of lusty adrenalin. The oyster, juice, butter and garlic slid onto his tongue, lingered, then disappeared as he swallowed. The garlic lent a rich flavour that complimented the tender oyster meat perfectly.

FOR THE COUP-DE-GRACE I brought out a vat of molten chocolate and mountainous bowl of freshly cut fruit. Falling upon the fondue dish like guests at a Roman orgy, my friends began piercing fruit and smothering it in the rich, melted chocolate with vigour. My dog watched with curiosity, her head cocked to one side, as I slid a piece of chocolate-covered mango into my mouth with a groan of pleasure.

Bites of mango and fig were specifically chosen to stimulate the women and improve their fertility, while papaya and banana were meant to raise pheromone levels in the men. The real hero was the chocolate itself, rich in neurotrophic stimulators, also containing caffeine to assist with late night aerobics.

I gave everyone a sample of my homemade love potion to wash down the sticky sweet fondue mess. Made from chamomile and rose petals for the power of the sun, lavender for its ability to attract, basil for fidelity and a pinch of saffron to stimulate the erogenous zones, I proffered the concoction as a warm aromatic tea. Served as iced tea sweetened with honey, it could readily be slipped into

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someone's unsuspecting glass on a hot summer day.

The brewing of love potions and the use of charms and rituals have all been performed to attract and enchant potential suitors, with or without their consent. Herbalists have been devising potions for generations: some are meant to bring back a lost love, others to improve a waning love and the most controversial elixirs are those designed to make someone fall in love with the potion's maker.

Satiated and armed with an arsenal of knowledge, my guests departed with instructions to report any sexy encounters that occurred in the next 24 hours.

As for me, I crawled into bed alongside my dog, pulling her close to breath in the musky scent of her soft white fur. Freeing herself from my grasp, she retired to the end of the bed, looking back at me as though to say, "Don't even think about it."

No tigers were harmed in the writing of this story. ▼

IT WAS A LITTLE SPANISH FLY

Spanish Fly may be one of the best-known aphrodisiacs, but its primary ingredient, cantharidin, is highly toxic. Derived from crushed beetle, cantharides are sometimes given to farm animals in order to encourage them to mate, and the human dose thought to act as a stimulant is miniscule. Too much can cause kidney damage and bleeding in the urinary tract, making it a dangerous and potentially fatal tonic.

The good news is that the Spanish Fly you see advertised on the internet is most likely a mixture of cayenne pepper, niacin, ginseng and other non-medicinal ingredients which are relatively harmless. ▼

FOOD NEWS!

DISH WEEKLY

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE MOUTHFUL?

Nyotaimori and nantaimori is the delightful practice of eating sushi or sashimi off the typically naked body of a woman or man, respectively.

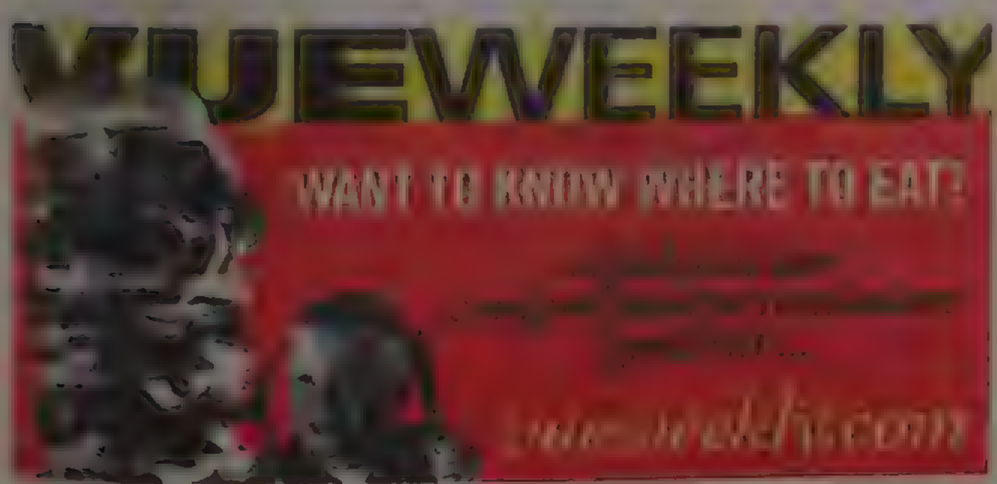
Wikipedia claims that, before becoming a living sushi platter, the person is trained to lie down for hours without moving. He or she must also be able to withstand the prolonged exposure to the cold food. Body hair, including pubic hair, would also be shaved.

Before service, the individual would take a bath using a special fragrance-free soap and then finish off with a splash of cold water to cool the body down somewhat for the sushi.

Several nyotaimori clubs have opened in the US, generally limiting their clientele to invited guests only. However, the movement is gaining popularity and restaurants are opening for nyotaimori and nantaimori for both traditional Asian fare and more varied [illegible]

Why not consider a nyotaimori or nantaimori party of your own? Make sure you drop Dish Weekly an invite.

Dish Weekly spills the beans on culinary happenings around town. Got an event, an announcement or some substantiated gossip? Email dish@vueweekly.com or fax 425 2369



SEX CITY
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The best beer selection in town is an Original

SUDS! GREAT HEAD
JASON FOSTER
greathead@vueweekly.com

I never used to consider Original Joe's as my kind of place. I only darkened their doors for the first time a few months ago on the wings of a gift certificate I won at a homebrew competition.

The décor wasn't my style—the High Street location's cavernous warehouse feels dark, even in the middle of a sunny summer afternoon. The clientele seems young and professional, and most seem to be regulars.

Otherwise, I was so wrong. What I found was Edmonton's best selection of beers on tap. Out of 16, not one was Molson or Labatt. Most are products from western Canadian microbreweries. They also had three house beers on draught. There was sufficient range to satisfy everyone, from lager lout to dedicated hophead. Another 45 bottled beers sat in the cooler, 30 of which were imports.

"It's intentional," says Chris Stone, an area partner for the two Edmonton locations. "Offering unique, high-quality beer is a way to build a creative niche for our restaurant.

"We carried Alexander Keith's at first, and it was our biggest selling brand. We took it off anyway—it was just too big," notes Stone. "Molson and Labatt have given up on us, and we like it that way."

There was a discernable pattern in their draughts: Alley Kat Full Moon Pale Ale and Aprikat, Wildrose Velvet Fog and Wraspberry, Yukon Gold and Chilkoot Lager. Joe's paired a more accessible beer with a more adventurous beer from each brewery. They also have Tree Kelowna Pilsner and other BC regionals, plus a couple of Big Rock brews.

I FINALLY SAMPLED all three of the house beers—a blonde lager, a honey brown and a red. The lager was pale yellow with a delicate grainy aroma and flavour. It was sweet, gentle and well-suited to summer quaffing.

The honey brown was less impressive It had a light, nutty flavour up front with only a subtle honey note, but it finished far too sweet. It needed more balance

The red was solid, if straight ahead. A light caramel malt aroma and tantalizing sweetness built up front, with just enough hop coming up at the end to balance the finish. It could have done with a more robust presentation, as it seemed a bit timid on both the malt and hops. That said, it was well crafted.

The staff at Original Joe's seemed both beer knowledgeable and eager to help customers find the right beer. They were also liberal with free samples to allow for a better decision. They even offered cute mixtures of beers for a completely original beer drinking experience: try a TraddyKat, which blends Big Rock Traditional Ale and Alley Kat Aprikat.

As I lingered over the three house beers, I had pangs of familiarity. All seemed strangely known to me, despite never having tried Joe's house beers before.

The mystery was solved when Stone admitted the house beers were really just rebranded beers made by breweries in the area. The red was Yukon's Arctic Red, the blonde was Alley Kat's Charlie Flint and the honey brown was Big Rock's Honey Brown. No wonder they seemed familiar!

The house beers may have been more marketing than reality, but there was no mistaking this pub's commitment to local brewers and to quality beer offerings. **v**

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Schmidt and co try to make sense of *The Busy World*

EVA MARIE CLARKE / evamarie@vueweekly.com

"It's boys kissing boys and talk of the bible." The quip is weary, but there's no mistaking the passion in Trevor Schmidt's voice as he chats about the show opening the new Northern Light Theatre season. ***The Busy World is Hushed***, with its themes of love, family, spirituality and belief is a harbinger in this season's triptych of Canadian and world premieres linked by similar themes—from Nathan Cuckow's *3 Different Heavens to Cherish* by Ken Duncan. His 2007/2008 programming, says Schmidt, seems determined by fate. "They're the things on my mind. I don't know if I attract them or they find me, but they show up in sets of three. I'm either lucky or it's a blessing".

PREVUE

FRI, SEP 14 - SUN, SEP 30
THE BUSY WORLD IS HUSHED
DIRECTED BY SKYE BRANDON
WRITTEN BY KEITH BUNIN
STARRING TREVOR SCHMIDT, FARREN TIMOTEO, HOLLY TURNER
THIRD SPACE (11516 - 103 ST)

Lucky or blessed, Schmidt is a master of multi-tasking. In addition to the day-to-day administrative tasks of his company, he's breaking in new staff, creating the costumes and sets for this production and playing the pivotal character, Brandt, a ghostwriter hired to help an Episcopalian minister with her translation of a Coptic gospel. "When we get a break, the cast goes outside for a cigarette, and I go to the office to check messages. But it's uplifting; I consider myself an actor before all else—director, Artistic Director. I have to work to support the text and give a good performance for my director."

His character is thrown into the middle of a contentious relationship between Hannah (Holly Turner), the aforementioned minister and her son Thomas (Farren Timoteo). Sparks do fly between Thomas and Brandt and Hannah grapples with some fairly thorny questions around herself as a mother and minister. There are some political hot buttons—in light of the recent decision by the Anglican Church of Canada not to bless same-sex unions, the play is extremely topical for Canadian audiences—but they're tangential to the central questions raised by the script regarding love and faith.

"We're always taking leaps of faith—in love, in business, in relationships," explains Schmidt. "Some are capable and willing to do that, some cannot. Brandt wants to, but feels he's incapable."

THE JUXTAPOSITION of intellectual concerns upon human makes Bunin's work immediate and accessible, explains Schmidt: there is an ability to mine the subconscious of the social strata being dramatized.

"He's incredibly intellectual and writes about literate, educated people. They're not talking heads; the rhetoric is always motivated by emotional [reality]," says Schmidt. "This character is very much a lot like me. Many of the things I say in this play are speaking to where I am in life right now—incredibly personal. People think I'm acting, but I'm not"

Director Skye Brandon agrees with Schmidt's assessment. Both worked together on another Bunin play, *The Credeaux Canvas*, in 2004 (Schmidt directed and Brandon acted). This production marks Brandon's full directorial debut, and despite feeling a bit as though he's been thrown in the proverbial deep end, there's a sense of inexhaustible enthusiasm as he speaks about the show

"The opening scenes, I keep thinking 'Wow, I wish I could talk like that!'" he exclaims. "It's all very intelligent and well spoken, but it's so personal, a story about a woman and her son. The writer is thrown into the middle. Religion is more of a backdrop, a point where son and mother don't see eye to eye, a catalyst. The central question is 'who's being asked for love and commitment, and how are they going out of their way to avoid it?'"

It is an intensely personal play, he avers, coloured by spirituality, but not threatening in any way

"It's people. Three different viewpoints on religion represented by the characters. I think everyone will find someone they can relate to here. What's really amazing in this script is no one is belittled or begrudged their beliefs." ▼

Interdisciplinary paste-up collaborations fuel Collage-A-Thon

MARY CHRISTA O'KEEFE / marychrista@vueweekly.com

"Collage is something I've always been interested in," explains ArtsHab-based artist Tim Rechner. "I feel it's a contemporary form, with the presence of the media, newspapers, magazines and stuff in today's culture. It's not at the forefront of my practice, but it has a place in my drawings, and also my paintings. It's a natural medium for collaboration. I'm looking forward to doing **Collage-A-Thon** for the chance to work more with this form."

PREVUE

FRI, SEPT 14 (7 PM - 2 AM)
TIM RECHNER'S COLLAGE-A-THON
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LATITUDE 53
WITH GUESTS NO HANDS, DJ SHERI BARCLAY, MILE ZERO DANCE AND MORE
AGA, FREE, EVERYONE WELCOME

Only weeks after the third annual Draw-A-Thon at Latitude 53 provided a venue for event founder Rechner and a varied group of drawing enthusiasts to gather and celebrate their medium, the AGA is hosting a sister event. Collage-A-Thon is a prelude to the AGA's upcoming Kurt Schwitters show, which will show the German paste-up pioneer's works alongside a tidy overview of pop art.

"The Schwitters and pop art shows

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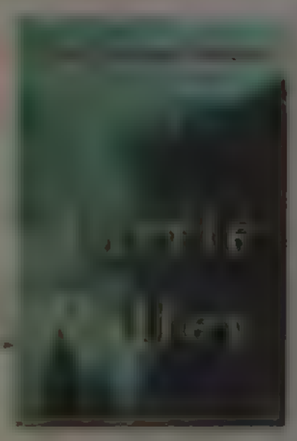

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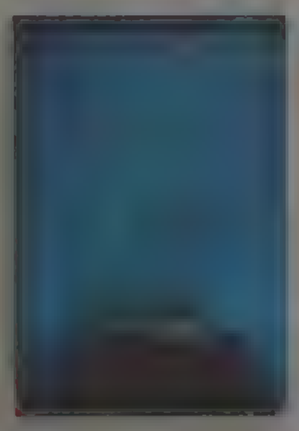

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH • 7:30PM
Meet the two-time Giller award winner

COMING IN OCTOBER:
WILL FERGUSON
"SPANISH FLY"
THURSDAY OCTOBER 4TH 7:30PM
PETER BEHRENS
"LAW OF THE LAND"
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17TH 7:30PM

And now for something completely different from The National Ballet

SHERRY DAWN KNETTLE / sherry@vueweekly.com

As Xiao Nan Yu and The National Ballet of Canada prepare to go on a tour of Western Canada, she and company members are busy rehearsing for roles in two drastically different ballets, both of which they'll perform on a single program during the tour. The works include ***Polyphonia***, a contemporary piece, and the traditional full-length ballet ***Giselle***, in which Yu is very excited to perform the most coveted and demanding lead role in the ballet world.

PREVUE
TUE, SEP 18 & WED, SEP 19 (8 PM)
GISELLE & POLYPHONIA
PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA
NORTHERN ALBERTA JUBILEE AUDITORIUM (11455 - 87 AVE)

The unconventional program has created some exciting challenges for the company.

"It's two completely different feelings," says Yu about dancing in both works, adding that Giselle is very demanding—emotionally, mentally and physically. "You could never dance in both ballets in one evening because the preparation is so different. If I do *Polyphonia*, I can't do *Giselle* afterwards."

In fact, the company, which has a total of 62 dancers, forms two completely different casts who alternate in the two pieces each evening.

Although Yu agrees that classical ballet is harder than contemporary dance, she says that a work such as *Polyphonia* also presents some interesting challenges.

"For people who have trained in classical dance, it's difficult to break out of the classical form into the modern one," she says. "But you get used to it. You learn where to let go, where to hold on."

IF SHE PREFERS ONE dance style to the other, Yu isn't telling. She fully admits she loves dancing Giselle because it's the role she spent years working for, but she also has a special love of the contemporary work.

"In *Polyphonia*, I could be a creature, like a jellyfish; I can creep around—I can't do that in *Giselle*," she says, laughing. "I have to be a real person."

Besides differing in their characterization and movement styles, the two pieces also diverge in their narrative approaches. *Giselle* is a story ballet, while *Polyphonia* is considered an abstract work. Its short dances are based on ten piano pieces created by 20th century composer Gyorgy Ligeti. The company decided to put the two works together because, although most full-length ballets traditionally have three acts *Giselle* has only two. That makes it a shorter piece, allowing extra time for a second work

By putting *Giselle*, one of the oldest story ballets in history, on stage with a contemporary work, the company illustrates the changes that have taken place during more than a century and a half of ballet. Yu says that the program allows The National Ballet to offer its audiences an opportunity to see its very diverse talents.

"Rather than the audience just getting a little taste of the company, and then the evening's finished, this way, we can present more of what we can really do." **v**

COLLAGE-A-THON

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

will be open that night for a special preview," Rechner notes. "They don't officially open until the following week, but it's important to have these shows open for people to be able to see while making their own collages."

RECHNER SAYS Collage-A-Thon has a similar vibe to the popular Draw-A-Thon: "It's free, for all ages, materials included. Everyone is welcome; anyone who is interested. If anyone has anything they want to give us, like old magazines or supplies, they can bring it to the gallery anytime that week or night. People can bring food to share. It's certainly not required, though. Come and go through the night, do whatever you feel comfortable doing. We'll have big collaborative surfaces up, but people can also work in seclusion and not show anyone what they did. Or they can hand a piece back and forth, taking turns to add to it. They can give us work to hang afterwards, or take it home. There are no rules other than: come make art and enjoy the company of others."

There are differences between A-Thons. The collage timespan is only seven hours, but Rechner adds, "It's a bigger event because it's a bigger venue." A DJ is an A-Thon constant, but Collage-A-Thon also includes a set by Rechner's band No Hands and an improvisational collaboration between Mile Zero Dance and filmmakers and musicians.

"Mostly I just want to participate," Rechner confesses. "What I look forward to, as always, is making art with other people." **v**

Cooke's *Offering* stays disconnected from the landscapes it tries to explain

AMY FUNG / amy@vueweekly.com

As the central and title piece in ***The Offering***, Adrian Cooke's multidisciplinary piece (pictured) offers little insight into the contemplative and contemporary nature of the land. Fabric-covered lights, human sized and sitting at the four posts of a wooden altar, Cooke's first foray using internal lighting or fabric drew a strange contrast to the mostly small-scale lathed works, sketches and cardboard dioramas of a former era.

Citing British sculptor Henry Moore as an early influence, Cooke's [illegible] works continue to have a soft tactile friendliness. The fabric of the lights, however, were too soft and light to hold their own against the sculptures, but on their own they could possibly have been haunting.

The small scale sculptures themselves are objects you feel you want to touch, resembling solid crafted vases, but that have been set in grain and left tectering and unreachable.

It is no coincidence that many handcrafted pieces sitting atop of the altar within *The Offering* resemble the traditional shapes and silhouettes looming over the prairies, including miniature lathed grain bins from old bowling balls. (It's an interesting footnote on the materials list, but in relation to a larger context to the work and exhibition, there is a detachment between inspiration and execution.)

As a peace offering to the land or environment, *The Offering* as a whole greatly idealizes the vast openness of the prairie land.

"Driving for three or four hours you cover a lot of land and you see a lot of things and that certainly has become source material," Cooke explains of his pieces. "This is an accumulation of a lot of information and this is what comes out."

VIZ ARTS
UNTIL SAT, SEP 29
THE OFFERING
PIECES BY ADRIAN COOKE
HARCOURT HOUSE ARTS CENTRE (10215 - 112 ST)

WITH SCULPTURES dating back to as early as 1983 on display, the pieces accumulated seem to work best collectively, contrasting colours, shapes, levels and surfaces that each represent a memory and an afterthought. In re-creating the bygone era of man-made intrusions upon the land, perhaps Cooke is attempting to find a sense of peace about a slowly fading vista.

The one other installation sculpture envisions the horizon as three dimensional, offsetting a photograph of a sunset with a sculpture at its forefront. Only the sculpture alone can stand for the flat vicissitude of a big red sun hanging over the land, but reinforced with a photograph, the paleness of the sculpture's natural wood is lost and redundant.

Not that Cooke has not experienced the land he treads on. As an international artist who has continued to live and work in Lethbridge for the past 26 years, there is a heavy folk aesthetic to Cooke's pieces that ties him to the land.

"I've lived in a prairie-like setting since 1950. It's become for thirty years or more a source material," he said during his opening reception last Thursday. "When you have that kind of openness, any structure, a tree or a barn or a fence, it runs at odds with the landscape."

In his artist statement, Cooke explains that his work "draws its inspiration from considerations of how man-made structures and ingrained patters of human activity impose and intrude on the landscape and alter what was once austere open space."

What strikes as a disconnect is the interchangeable use of landscape with horizon. A tree once grown becomes one with a landscape, as does a grain tower, or fence, in the way that it collectively forms as a unified image in vision as in memory. ▼

Adrian Cooke will be giving an artist lecture on Thu, Sep 20 at 11:15 am in Room 203 at the Grant MacEwan Centre for the Arts (10045 - 156 St).

Anything can happen at Die-Nasty's Soap-a-thon

JOEL SEMCHUK / joel@vueweekly.com

Get out your pillows and blankets and be ready to dig in for the long haul: Edmonton's favourite improv troupe, Die-Nasty, is once again holding its annual **Soap-a-Thon**, and this year is promising to be bigger than ever

"This year I'd like to make it different," says director Dana Anderson "You can bet that more people will be going for [all 53 hours]."

As Anderson explains, the idea this year is to bring in as much talent as possible for the nearly three-day event, running continuously from Friday evening to Sunday night Besides Die-Nasty's regulars, audiences can expect to see actors from local groups like Rapid Fire Theatre and Blacklisted, as well as performers from Toronto, Britain and Australia showing up for cameos.

"Anything can happen and anything usually does," points out longtime member Davina Stewart. "We have many excellent actors coming to play with us; [being on-stage with Die Nasty] is the best place to workshop."

That might be true, but how many workshops involve (amongst other things) rampaging sex, cheating, drug abuse and murder?

THIS YEAR, ALL THE craziness takes place in Cadaver, Alberta, a town that's just been invaded by a Los Angeles film crew making a zombie movie on a tight budget

IMPROV
FRI, SEP 14 (8 PM) - SUN, SEP 16 (11 PM)
DIE-NASTY SOAP-A-THON
FEATURING THE DIE-NASTY CAST AND SPECIAL GUESTS
VARSCONA THEATRE (10329 - 83 AVE)
$10 - $12, $30 FOR A WEEKEND PASS

Beyond that, there's really no way of knowing what to expect: last year's event featured a wedding in West Edmonton Mall, and a reception where actors opened presents from the audience. While there are a few traditions that happen every year—including the Hours of Gratuitous Nudity (Sat from 4 am - 6 am) and the Family Hours (Sun 2 pm - 4pm)—no one can predict exactly how those will go, either

If all goes according to plan though—Anderson says he hopes to get as many people as possible improvising for as long as possible—Sunday's finale should be one for the books: things can get a little gloomy near the end of this impressive comedic feat even when most cast members aren't sticking it out for the whole thing

"We've had some hilarious moments," explains Stewart. "Some great characters have been born"

And with the promise of an impressive number of performers on stage this year, one can rest assured that 2007 will be much more, of more of the same ... so to speak. ▼

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VUE WEEKLY

Silver Jew writes golden poetry

BOOKS | HOPSCOTCH
JOSH BRAUN
hopscotch@vueweekly.com

I never hesitate to admit that I don't spend a lot of time reading poetry, and I'll be damned if I'll let anyone make me feel ashamed of loving rock 'n' roll, but there is something slightly embarrassing in reading poetry written by rock 'n' rollers. Honestly: there should be a special, extra-marked-down remainder section for volumes of verse by rockers. (Is there any greater piece of evidence that the world's completely fucked than the fact that Jewel is the best-selling poet of all time?) Yet having said all that, I've never met an exception I didn't like.

I got into Silver Jews with 1996's *The Natural Bridge*. I'd read some review saying it was some sort of marriage of Pavement and Leonard Cohen and figured it must be for me. One purchase later and I became a shameless fanboy. I experienced that rare sensation of discovering a piece of art that feels made specifically for you. The spare, eccentric, largely hushed manipulation of American folk conventions, the weird repetitions, the monumentally dry humour and that voice—low, laconic, sometimes barely singing, unspoolling tales of science classes for ghosts, rejected robots, murdered prototypes of mankind and elephant custodians. And the albums just get better from here.

The owner of that voice, and mastermind behind the whole deal, is David Berman, now 40, a guy who grew up in Texas and Virginia. He's got some issues with performance: he toured for the first time ever last year. The act of going to see him—I caught the Jews in Chicago—was like a pilgrimage. It didn't seem quite real, like going to a Thomas Pynchon book-signing. Berman seemed shocked to discover he had fans and looked out on the crowd with genuine fear. But whatever anxiety he suffers in no way compromises his innate sense of showmanship, something that comes across on paper as much as acetate.

Let me get to the point: ***Actual Air*** (Open City, $20.95). In the very first poem, "Snow," Berman dissembles his own process of bullshitting, forcing himself to expand on what in countless Jews tunes might stand as a one-line non-sequitur. He's walking through a snowy landscape with his little brother, points to a place where kids had made snow angels and tells little brother that a troop of angels had been shot and dissolved when they hit the ground. Little brother asks who shot them and he tells him it was a farmer. Later, they're out on the ice, and "the ice looked like a photograph of water," and little brother asks him why the farmer shot them ... and it just goes

on, to the point where we realize that for this kid, the world is being translated and contextualized through the prism of Berman's impulse to poeticize everything into spectacularly bad jokes, and that with this impulse comes unexpected responsibilities.

UNDER THESE POEMS is a minutely monitored struggle between memory, time, despair and willfully distorted perception, and it's a struggle no one is eager to see concluded. Here's some of "Classic Water":

I remember the night we camped out and I heard her whisper / "think of me as a place" from her sleeping bag with the centaur print.

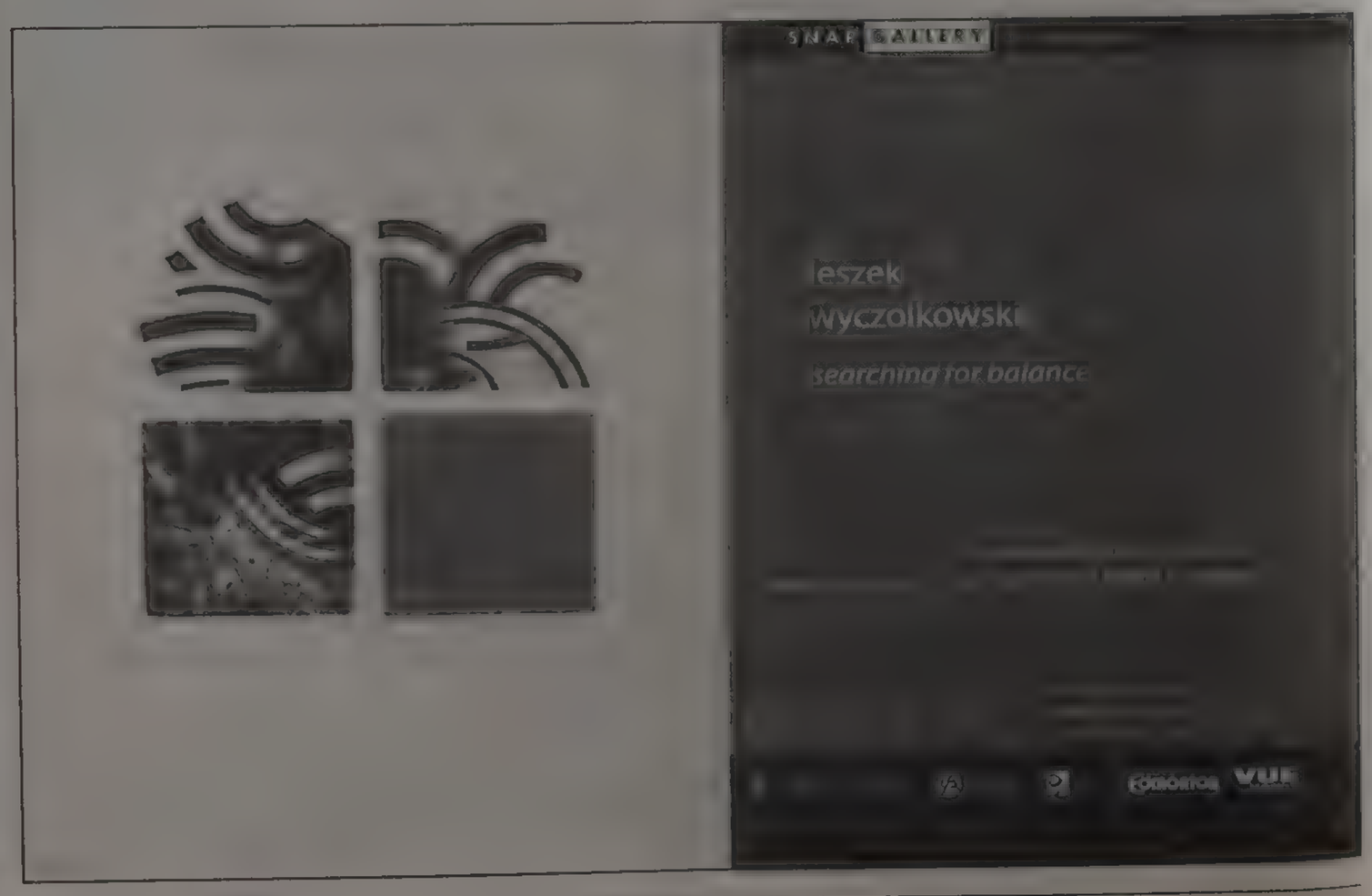
I remember being in her father's basement workshop / when we picked up an unknown man sobbing / over the short-wave radio / and the night we got so high we convinced ourselves / that the road was a hologram projected by the headlight beams.

Berman's also consistently preoccupied with a peculiar vision of Americana that informs not only his musical themes but his use of history. The bizarrely misdated title of "April 13, 1865" goes unexplained as John Sleeper Clarke gives a chilling description of his response to the shot ringing out across the gas-lit enclosure of Ford's Theatre. There are poems about James Michener, New York and Tulsa. Even when the culture being evoked is from abroad—Isaac Asimov, Iron Maiden—there is something distinctly Southern to the way it moves through Berman's imaginative filters.

These pieces largely date back to long before the Silver Jews' latest and greatest, which just leaves me hoping Berman's still writing poetry. But even if young adulthood was the only period he ever decided to chronicle through verse—which, hey, would still give him an edge on Rimbaud—the small body of work would still stand as something I'd call remarkable, a stunned stumbling upon the development of a singular voice and its power. Here's a bit of "Self-portrait at 28":

I walked out to the hill behind our house / [...] I was with our young dog / and he was running through the tall grass / like running through the tall grass / is all of life together, / until a bird calls or he finds a beer can / and that thing fills all the space in his head.

You see, / his mind can only hold one thought at a time / and when he finally hears me call his name / he looks up and cocks his head. / For a single moment my voice is everything. V



Harkening back to the innocent age of hardcore

DAVID BERRY / david@vueweekly.com

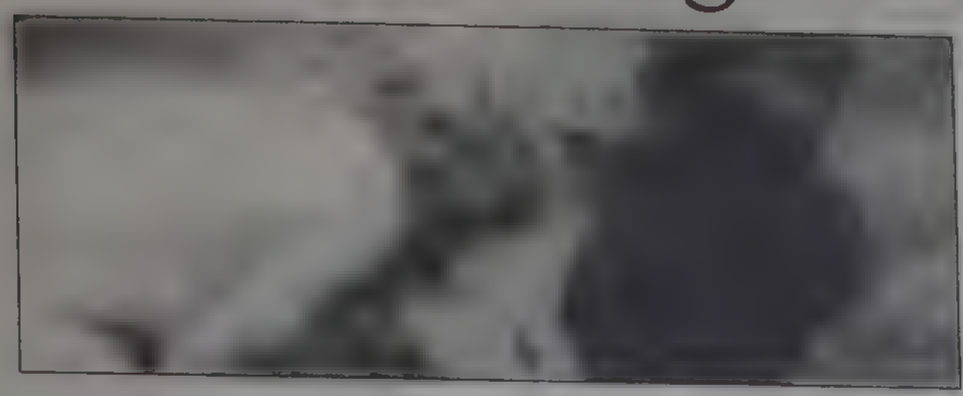
Of all the industries in the world, no one takes to new innovations or technologies quite like the folks who make porn. So it should come as no surprise, realizing that from almost the minute there were movie cameras, there were people using them to film something sexy: even Thomas Edison, when he wasn't having his workshop spit out more straight-laced patents, had a few racy films sneak their way out the laboratory doors.

British-cum-American journalist Dave Thompson chronicles the history of sex on film, from Edison right through to the video cassette , in his latest book ***Black and White and Blue: Adult Cinema from the Victorian Age to the VCR***. It's an exhaustively illuminating look at a subject that tends to get short shrift: after all, even in our porn-saturated age, most people would rather keep sex on the sheets rather than the screen.

OUT NOW

BLACK AND WHITE AND BLUE
ADULT CINEMA FROM THE VICTORIAN AGE TO THE VCR
BY DAVE THOMPSON
ECW PRESS, 350PP ($19.95)

"It was certainly fairly scandalous in its day, although plenty of people who could get quite annoyingly moral were caught watching in stag films," Thompson explains over the phone from his home in Delaware. "Still, it's probably better to have a group of people watching porn together than having some Family Values senator tapping his foot in men's washrooms."



THOUGH THE FACT there's always been anti-porn crusaders should come as no surprise, exactly what they were up in arms about quite probably does. Far from bathing beauties showing some ankle, stag films—even from as early as the turn of the century—weren't terribly different from what we're seeing now. Sure, there was less in the way of niche market films, but Thompson chronicles films rampant with everything from hardcore penetration to bisexual threesomes, and most everything in between

"I think in some ways it's actually more shocking, because it's much more real," he says, pointing out that, most of the time, films were made by two willing participants who just wanted to see themselves in pictures "It's just like looking through a keyhole: you certainly don't have these kinds of positions that no one would ever try, or women striking a face at the camera or whatever—you might get one sighing because her partner can't get it up, but that's a different story."

Another curious quirk of the era was the common viewing arrangement. Thanks to the scarcity and expense of film equipment most stags, as the name implies, were watched in groups—a setting, according to Thompson, that kept stags markedly different from their modern cousins

"These were a chance for some of the boys to get together and blow off some steam by watching a few sexy films," he explains breezily

"I really think it's been replaced by something like getting together to watch the big game, like a Superbowl party or something like that," Thompson continues. "That's all well and good, I suppose, but I really think society would be a much better place if we just got back to communal porn viewing." v

Gillespie gives a novel take on Alberta with *Shyness*

JAY SMITH / jay@vueweekly.com

With ***Crown Shyness***, Curtis Gillespie has produced a jewel for Albertan literature. Since the Alberta government has been attempting to kill off our indigenous publishing industry, it's surprising that our province still has novelists at all. Calculated on paper, every new, professional novel produced within our provincial borders should win a prize for existing despite the odds.

But Curtis Gillespie's wonderful first novel should win accolades for refusing to shy away from the sociopolitical landscape that makes literary work here so difficult. Exploring the uneasy cohabitation of demographics that makes our province so unique, *Crown Shyness* stands in small company as a warts-and-all literary confrontation of Albertan society.

It's a book that manages to express the striking contradictions of an arts-bashing province that still produces art, a right-wing province that contains a vocal left-wing population, a stereotypically red-neck province that boasts three universities and a population just as educated as elsewhere in Canada.

This is pretty radical, in and of itself. Running contrary to the sort of Albertan literature that, save for the insertion of Albertan place-names, could just as well have been set in any other Canadian urban centre (read: literature with Toronto-envy),

REVUE

OUT TUE, SEP 18
CROWN SHYNESS
BY CURTIS GILLESPIE
BRINDLE & GLASS, 230 PAGES, $22.95
BOOK LAUNCH MON, SEP 17; NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS (9704 - 111 AVE)

Gillespie sets out to portray the decidedly less glamorous elements of Albertan society. There's no feel-good multiculturalism, no elegant exposition on the wonders of social welfare. Instead, *Crown Shyness* opens with protagonist Paul Munk travelling by car with his parents to pick up his brother, Rick, from jail. It's hardly a quotidian scenario, but Gillespie soon paints in universally relevant (by Albertan standards) details: Munk is the left wing son in a family of conservatives.

THE TITLE REFERS to how trees crowded together grow to different heights in order to share resources. It's a metaphor for the family dynamic between the three siblings of the Munk family. They, in turn, can be read as representations of the different demographic elements in Albertan society.

There's Lisa, the academic, who reroutes all emotional responses into intellectual analysis. Rick is a ne'er-do-well just out of prison who, in the action of the novel, is attempting to start anew with his prison-pen-pal girlfriend, Tammy. Then there's our protagonist Paul, the magazine writer who is writing a profile of Daniel Code, a Christian fundamentalist politician in a new Albertan right-wing party

Since the profile is for a struggling left-wing magazine (what other sort of political dissidence does this province sustain?), Paul faces the challenge of portraying Code as an enigmatic individual whom he finds personally agreeable, yet whose politics Paul finds utterly reprehensible. Add to this dilemma the fact that he's painfully attracted to Code's daughter-cum-publicist (whose politics are decidedly more cosmopolitan than her father's) and that Munk has unearthed some seriously tarnished elements in the Codes' family history.

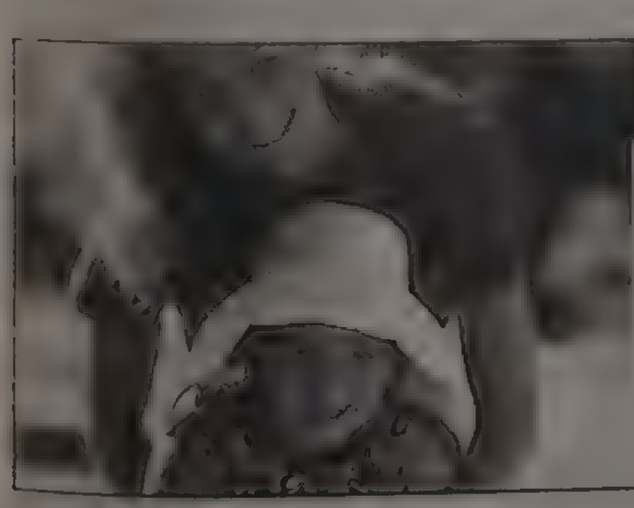
It's a novel tension, artfully presented, and infused with experiences utterly unique to Alberta.

Gillespie profits from writing from Paul's perspective: the disparate demographics incorporated in *Crown Shyness* are judiciously presented, allowing the flawed humanity of each to shine through. The strategy is credible partially because of Paul's devotion to his journalism work, and partially because Paul occupies the middle ground between his sister's austere intellectualism and his brother's thoughtless corporeality.

PAUL IS NO DOUBT something of an alter-ego for Gillespie, whose back-page biography reveals him to be an Edmonton-based magazine writer who has been well-lauded over the course of his career. So, though this is Gillespie's first novel, it's substantially better than others in its category. The intricately woven plot, economic and careful, is the work of an experienced writer. Gillespie also turns phrases that just catch in the ear: a magazine profile tainted with personal interest is "another in the long line of slabs of propaganda that passed for journalism across every political orientation."

Moreover, for a novel of such astute psychological realism, *Crown Shyness* motors along with surprising suspense. While Paul is trying to work on his story, the mystery behind Rick and Tammy's relationship slowly emerges. It's shady stuff that bends the novel into veritable noir material, a wild yet entertaining contrast to the plot line concerned with Munk's profile of Daniel Code.

Tackling the heart of Albertan identity, how we can be urban socialists who get along grandly with rural rednecks until gods, guns or homos enter the conversation, how we can have our feet planted in so many different social locations, *Crown Shyness* is a book that Albertans should read in order to feel the bliss of being finally understood, and that others should read in order to understand us. v



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TOP 30

Megatunes

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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPT 13, 2007

1. M.I.A. – Kala (xl)
2. Sam Baker – Pretty World (sam baker)
3. New Pornographers – Challengers (last gang)
4. Pinback – Autumn Of The Seraphs (touch & go)
5. Bedouin Soundclash – Street Gospel (dine alone)
6. The Traveling Wilburys – Collection (rhino)
7. Shuyler Jansen – Today's Remains (black hen)
8. The Black Lips – Good Bad Not Evil (vice)
9. St. Vincent – Marry Me (beggars)
10. Aesop Rock – None Shall Pass (def jux)
11. As I Lay Dying – An Ocean Between Us (metal blade)
12. Various – The Gift: A Tribute To Ian Tyson (stony plain)
13. Yeah Yeah Yeahs – Is Is (dress up)
14. Wilco – Sky Blue Sky (nonesuch)
15. Animal Collective – Strawberry Jam (domino)
16. Brett Dennen – So Much More (dualtone)
17. Spoon – GaGaGaGaGa (merge)
18. Caribou – Andorra (merge)
19. Josh Ritter – The Historical Conquests Of (sony/bmg)
20. Feist – The Reminder (arts & crafts)
21. Turbonegro – Retox (slr)
22. The Birthday Massacre – Walking With Strangers (metropolis)
23. Tegan & Sara – The Con (maple)
24. The National – Boxer (4ad)
25. Lateef & Z-Trip – Ahead Of The Curve (quannum)
26. Joan Armatrading – Into The Blues (429)
27. Architecture In Helsinki – Places Like This (polyvinyl)
28. Interpol – Our Love To Admire (capitol)
29. Mavis Staples – We'll Never Turn Back (anti)
30. Peter Case – Let Us Now Praise Sleepy John (yep roc)

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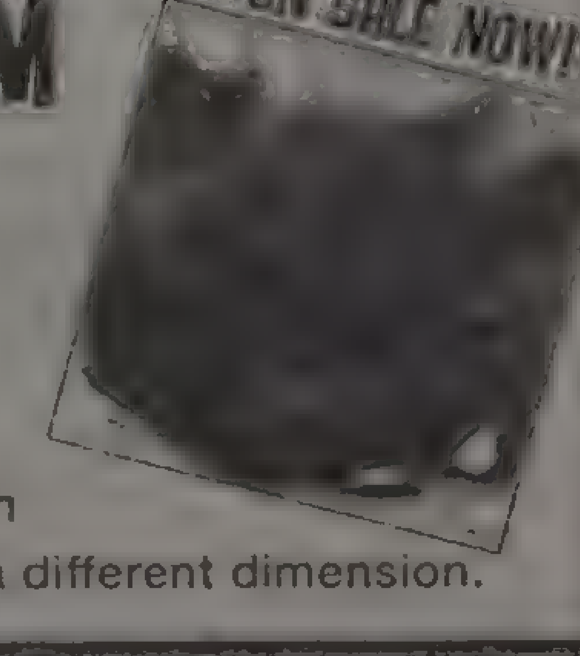

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DANCE

ALBERTA BALLET–GISELLE Jubilee Auditorium, 11455-87 Ave (428-6839 ext 1, 451-8000) • With Christopher Wheeldon's *Polyphonia* • Sept. 18-19 (8pm) • Tickets available at TicketMaster • Ballet talk: Karen Kain and Rex Harrington Sept. 18 (7.15pm); Rex Harrington Sept. 19 (7.15pm)

DAMMITDANCE THEATRE–SCYTHE Catalyst Theatre, 8529 Gateway Blvd • By Amber Borotsik in collaboration with Jesse Gervais, Kerem Cetinel, Jason Carnew, Andrew Gummer, Aaron Macri, Linda Turnbull and Cory VanderJagt • Sept. 20-30 • $16 (adult)/$12 (student/senior) at TIX on the Square, 420.1757

MILE ZERO DANCE Avenue Skate Park, 9030-118 Ave (424-1573) • Launch: The Occupants, MZD season launch and fundraiser • Sat, Sept. 22 (8pm) • $15 (adv)/$18 (door)

[illegible] MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY, RHYTHM OF AGES TransAlta Arts Barn Westbury Theatre, 10330-84 Ave (420-1757) • A collaborative work featuring artists from the US, Toronto, India and Edmonton • Sept. 22 (7pm), Sept. 23 (3pm) • $20 (adult)/$18 (student/senior) at TIX on the Square

VIBE TRIBE PRODUCTIONS–DRUM AND DANCE JAMS Hazeldean Hall, 9630-66 Ave (433-6279) • Hand drumming and tribal dancing jam. Drums are available to borrow, no experience necessary • First and last Tue each month (6.30-8.30pm) • $10 (door)/child under 12 free2

ZAGHAREET! TRIBAL BELLY DANCE–GYPSY FIRE AND UNMATA Freemasons' Hall, 10318-100 Ave (430-1536) • Sat, Sept. 22 (7:30pm) • $20 (adv)/$25 (day of) • Workshops and master classes with Gypsy Fire and Unmata on Sept. 21-23 registration at zaghareet@gmail.com

GALLERIES/MUSEUMS

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY 12310 Jasper Ave (482-2854) • Open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm • *SOLO SHOW* Jamie Evrard • Until Sept. 20

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL GALLERY 10186-106 St (488-6611) • Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm (closed all hols) • **Feature Gallery:** *MAKING ALBERTA HOME.* Home furnishings and accessories; until Oct. 6 • **Discovery Gallery:** *TEN ITA (HEAVENLY PLANK):* Handcrafted wood furniture by George Heagle; Sept. 15-Oct. 27; opening reception: Sat, Sept. 15 (2-4pm)

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA Enterprise Square, 100, 10230 Jasper Ave • Open Mon-Fri 10.30am-5pm; Thu 10.30am-8pm (4-8pm free admission); Sat-Sun 11am-5pm • Drop-In Tours Sat and Sun (12.30, 1.30, 2 30 and 3 30pm) • *KURT SCHWITTERS: COLLAGE EYE.* Works by Schwitters and his contemporaries; until Nov 4 • *Collage-a-thon:* cut and paste while listening to bands and DJs; Sept. 14 (7pm-2am); free • *POP: LOVE, LOSS AND THE EVERYDAY:* Pop art from Britain, USA and Canada; until Nov. 25 • *FUN HOUSE.* Artworks explore the idea of constructed illusion, trompe l'oeil, false reality and faux finish; Sept. 22, 2007-Jan. 6, 2008 • *ACTUALIZING ED RUSCHA:* Curated by Anthony Easton; Sept 22-Jan. 6, 2008 • All Day Saturdays: programming for all ages; activities range from artists' talks, special lectures and tours to workshops and family art activities; Sept. 22 (1-4pm)

AXIS CAFÉ 10349 Jasper Ave (990-0031) • Acrylic paintings by Rodrigo Lopez • Until Sept. 31

FAB GALLERY Rm 1-1 Fine Arts Bldg, 112 St, 89 Ave (492-2081) • Open Tue-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 2-5pm • *CHASING FORM:* Sculptures by Cesar Alvarez outdoor exhibition, U of A Campus, South of Rutherford Library, 89 Ave, 112 St; extended to Sept. 15 • *OSAMU MATSUDA: NEW WORK,* prints by Monika Niwelinska; until Sept. 22

FRINGE GALLERY 10516 Whyte Ave (432-0240) • *DRAWING IS CONNECTING.* Artworks by Amy Loewan • Until Sept. 29

FRONT GALLERY 12312 Jasper Ave (488-2952) • New interior and exterior landscapes by Deborah Worsfold • Sept 18-Oct. 6 • Opening reception: Sat, Sept. 22

GALLERY AT MILNER–STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY Main Fl, Sir Winston Churchill Sq (496-7030) • Open Mon-Fri 9am-9pm; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 1-5pm • *LONG OVERDUE. BOOK RENEWAL:* Maine College of Art and the Portland public library exploration of society's relationship to books and art, in conjunction with North of Nowhere Expo; until Sept. 30 • *FUN WITH LENS.* Photographs by KanKi Chin; until Sept. 30

GALLERY ON MAIN–LACOMBE 2nd level, 4910-50 Ave, Lacombe (403-782-3402) • *ALBERTA HIGHWAY 53–THE ARTIST'S JOURNEY.* Paintings by six Alberta artists showing each artist's perspective of Highway 53 • Sept. 14-30 • Opening reception: Thu, Sept. 14 (7-10pm)

HARCOURT HOUSE 10215-112 St (426-4180) • Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 12-4pm • **Main Gallery**: *THE OFFERING.* A series of sculptures by Lethbridge artist Adrian Cooke; until Sept. 29 • **Front Room**: *TEMPORARY GEOGRAPHY.* Shannon Collis explores the theme of memory using digital technology and traditional printmaking and photographic techniques; until Sept. 29

JEFF ALLEN GALLERY Strathcona Place, 10831 University Ave (433-5282) • Open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm • *INSTUCTOR S SHOWTIME.* Paintings, fibre art, pottery and woodwork, by the centre's fall/winter instructors • Until Sept. 21

JOHNSON GALLERY (NORTH) 11817-80 St (479-8424) Open Tue-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm; Sat 9 30am-4pm • Serigraphs by George Weber; artworks by Con Boland, Wendy Risdale and Noboru Kubo; through Sept • **(SOUTH)** 7711-85 St (465-6171) • Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 10am-5pm • Artworks by Marion Barker, Wendy Risdale, Jim Brager, Dave [illegible]; through Sept

LATITUDE 53 GALLERY 10248-106 St 2nd Fl (423-5353) • *CORTEX:* Part of the Poetry Festival, an art and poetry display • Sept. 18-22 • Opening reception. Sept. 18

THE LOFT GALLERY A.J. Ottewell Arts Centre, 590 Broadmoor Blvd. Sherwood Park • Artworks by the late Edith Sawchuck, with a juried show including works by Willie Wong, Erin Webb, Sonja Marinoske, Margaret Klappstein, and Robert Howard • Until Nov. 1 • Opening reception: Sat, Sept. 15 (4-8pm)

McMULLEN GALLERY U of A Hospital, 8440-112 St (407-7152) • Open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat-Sun 1-8pm • *FOUR OUTSIDE VIEWS.* Landscape paintings by Pam Wilman, Adeline Rockett, Sophia Podryhla-Shaw, Donna Mille; until Sept. 30 • *ALL DAY/EVERYDAY:* Displaying the everyday gestures of the human experience; until Oct. 14

MCPAG 5411-51 St, Stony Plain (963-2777) • Open Mon-Sat 10am-4pm; Sun 10am-6.30pm • Paintings by Linda Fisher and ceramics by Tarra Wedman; until Sept. 27 • **The Dining Room Gallery:** Paintings by Mary Paranch; Sept. 20-Nov 8

MUTTART CONSERVATORY [illegible] *WATER EARTH FIRE AIR.* Art by members of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta; until Sept. 30 • Artworks by students (ages 4 to senior) of Alenna Marie; until Oct. 4

THE NORTH OF NOWHERE EXPO Various downtown locations (434-9236) • Multidisciplinary festival of independent media and underground art celebrating under-represented art and artists. The festival features live performances, a social justice fair, visual arts installations and independent film screenings • Sept. 16-30

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 10183-112 St (465-2162) • Open Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm or by appointment Sun-Mon 11am-5pm • *ECAS:* featuring painting, sculpture and photography by the Edmonton Contemporary Artist Society • Until Sept. 20

PORTAL GALLERY 9414-91 St (702-7522) • Open Tue-Fri 12-8pm; Sat 12-7pm • *ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL:* Artworks by Cheri Denis • Sept. 13-Oct. 31 • Opening reception: Sept. 15 (6-10pm)

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 Perron Street, St. Albert (460-4310) • Open Tue-Sat (10am-5pm), Thu (10am-8pm) • *PRAIRIE SPIRIT:* Artworks by Ken Delgarno, Jarom Scott, and George Toscak • Until Sept. 29

SCOTT GALLERY 10411-124 St (488-3619) • Open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm • *SEARCHING THE SPACES.* Landscape paintings by Jim Visser • Until Sept. 25

SNAP GALLERY 10309-97 St (423-1492) • Open Tue-Sat 12-5pm • **Main Gallery**: 25th Anniversary Biennial Print Competition; until Oct. 13 • *SEARCHING FOR BALANCE.* Leszek Wyczolkowski's printworks reflect the artists search for a balance between intellect/geometry, and organic/instinctive; until Oct.13; opening reception: Fri, Sept. 14 (7-9pm) • **Studio Gallery**: SNAP students' exhibition; until Oct. 13; opening reception: Friday, Sept. 14 (7pm)

SPRUCE GROVE GALLERY 35-5 Ave, Spruce Grove • Annual open art competition • Until Sept. 22 • Opening reception: Fri, Sept. 14 (7-10pm)

THE STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES 913 Ash St, Sherwood Park (467-8189) • Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; weekends by appointment/pre-booked tour • *SPORTS FROM THE PAST:* Featuring sports equipment, photographs and collectibles from the early 1900s to the late 1980s • Through Sept. • $3

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 11211-142 St (452-9100) • *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE SCIENCE KIND–WHERE IMAGINATION MEETS REALITY:* Interactive feature exhibition; opens Sat, Sept. 22 • IMAX Films: *Dinosaurs Alive!: An Adventure in IMAX;* and *Hurricane on the Bayou and Whales;* play daily

TU GALLERY 10718-124 St (452-9664) • *PHOTOGRAPHIC STORY TELLER.* Photographs by Zbigniew Gortel • Sept. 15-Oct. 6 • Opening reception: Sept. 15 (12-4pm)

VAAA GALLERY 3rd Fl, Harcourt House, 10215-112 St (421-1731) • *WEAVING AND FIBRE EXHIBITION.* until Sept. 29

WEST END GALLERY 12308 Jasper Ave (488-4892) • Open: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm • *CANADIAN LANDSCAPES.* Scott Macleod, Guy Roy, Bev Rodin, Bill Webb, Robert Genn; until Sept. 20 • New floral works by Robert Savignac; Sept. 22-Oct. 5, opening reception, artist in attendance: Sept. 22 (1-4pm)

LITERARY

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ 9624-76 Ave (469-8755) • Story Slam: An opportunity for writers to share their work, explore their talents and show off • third Wed each month • $5 (donation)

CITY ARTS CENTRE 10943-84 Ave (488-9647) • Killer Blinks: Poems which take no longer than 30 seconds to perform • Sept. 17, 6 30pm (door)/7pm (blinks)

CITY ARTS CENTRE 10943-84 Ave (437-9555) • T.A.L.E.S. Monthly Storytelling Circle: Everyone welcome, tell stories or come to listen • Second Fri each month until June 2008 (8pm) • $3 admission, first time free

GRANT MACEWAN CITY CENTRE CAMPUS [illegible] 10700-104 Ave • Launch of J. Mark Smith's book of poetry, *Notes for a Rescue Narrative* • Wed, Sept 19 (4-5 30pm) • Free

GREENWOODS' BOOKSHOPPE [illegible] Poetry evening with Bert Almon and Ben Murray reading from their new collections • Sun, Sept. 16 (7.30pm)

LATITUDE 53 GALLERY, 10248-106 Street, 2nd Fl, www.thecortex.ca (423-5353) • Cortex Poetry Festival: A multidisciplinary event featuring an art and poetry display • Sept. 18-22 • Opening Sept. 18

NAIT Shaw Theatre on campus, 471 6248, 1 800 661.4077 • Robert McKee Story Seminar • Sept 14-16, (9am-8:30pm) • Tickets: $500 (early bird rates)/$600 (writer's special)/$575 (regular rates)/$675 (writer's special)

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS [illegible] • Curtis Gillespie launches his new novel *Crown Shyness* • Mon, Sept. 17 (7 30pm)

POETRY FESTIVAL www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com, Gallery at Milner, Stanley A. Milner Library Main Fl, Sir Winston Churchill Sq and other locations, 496 7030 • [illegible] poetry writing, readings and performances including Honour Songs: a celebration of Aboriginal women, past and present; Poets Across Borders: poetry in English and other languages; Street from the Heart: video by young people at risk with poet Catherine Owen • Sept. 17-23

THE ROAR SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL Various locations www.theroar.ca • Fri, Sept. 21 (7, 8, 9, and 10pm)

3 BANANAS CAFÉ Sir Winston Churchill Square • WOW–Wired on Words: We all have something to say, amateurs and professionals alike. Let this creative writing process guide you into self-discovery • Meetings bi-monthly, Sun (4-6pm) for info e-mail feelgoodbewellin2007@gmail.com

VOLUME II 12433-102 Ave (488-2665) • Reading and signing by Gail Anderson-Dargatz and Todd Babiak; Tue, Sept. 18 (7:30pm) • Reading and signing by M G. Vassanji; Sept. 19 (7.30pm)

WORD! SYMPOSIUM • www.edmontonculturalcapital.com • Poetry Connections symposium featuring Roald Hoffmann, who will speak and present the North American Premier performance of his play *Should've* on Sept. 21 • Sept. 21-22

LIVE COMEDY

THE COMEDY FACTORY 3414 Gateway Boulevard (469-4999) • Thu (8.30pm), $11; Fri (8 30pm), $20; Sat (8pm), $20 Sat (10:30pm), $20 • Every Wed (8.30pm): Wacky Wednesday; $5 • Bob Beddow; Sept. 13-15 • Gabriel Rutledge; Sept. 20-22 • Dennis Ross; Sept. 27-29

COMEDY FEST Polish Hall (1-800-1268-7371) • Adult stand up comedy with Wayne Flemming • Thu, Sept. 13 (8pm) • $20

THE COMIC STRIP 1646 Bourbon St, WEM, 8882-170 St (483-5999) • Open nightly 8pm, Fri 8pm and 10:30pm, Sat 8pm and 10.30pm, Sun 8pm • Hit or Miss Mondays; Tue alternative comedy night; Wed local talent • Gavin Steven, Marty Mclean, and Shawn Gramaik; until Sept. 16 • Hit or Miss Mondays Monday: Sept. 17 • Alternative Comedy Night: Tue, Sept. 18 • Joe Matarese, Sterling Scott, Troy Rawlyk and Kelly Soloduka; Sept. 19-23

CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB 15277 Castledowns Rd (472-7696) • Ha-Ha-Off comedy with host Kathleen McGee featuring Andrew Iwanyk • Every Thu (9pm) • No cover

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE • Comedy Extravaganza hosted by Kathleen MacGee; first Tue each month; no minor 8 30pm (door), 9pm (show) • $5

RIVERSIDE BAR AND GRILL 367 St. Albert Rd (460-112[illegible]) • Wednesday Night Live: Open stage every Wed for comedy, and music hosted by Barbara May and the Tumbling Dice (8-10pm) • No cover

YUK YUK'S KOMEDY KABARET Londonderry Mall (481-9857) • Open Wed-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8pm and 10 30pm • Sun: Industry Night; $10 • Amateur Night Tuesdays • Wes Crash and Burn featuring Howie Miller • Mike Wilmot, J P Fournier; until Sept. 15 • DJ Hazard; Sept. 19-22

THEATRE

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THE BUSY WORLD IS HUSHED The Third Space 11516-103 St (471-1586/420-1757) • Northern Light Theatre • Keith Bunin's story about Hannah, a minister and Bible scholar, who hires ghostwriter Brandt to help translate and interpret a newly discovered early gospel • Sept. 14-30 (8pm) • $20 (adult)/$18 (student/senior) at TIX on the Square Preview: Sept. 13 free (student)/$10; Opening night. $25

DIE-NASTY SOAP-A-THON Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave (433-3399) • Sept. 14-16

THE MAIDS Timms Centre for the Arts, Main Stage, 86 Ave, 112 St (492-2495) • Studio Theatre • By Jean Genet, directed by Ian Leung. Social identities are parodied and revealed to involve the complex layering of masks and play-acting as housemaids Solange and Claire indulge in elaborate, ritualistic dramas of dominance and subjugation • Sept. 19-29 (7:30pm); matinee: Sept. 27 (12.30pm) • Weekend: $19 (adult)/$13 (senior)/$10 (student), Week night. $16 (adult)/$12 (senior)/$10 (student); Preview: Sept 19, $[illegible] Opening night: $20 (adult)/$15 (senior)/$10 (student)

NASHVILLE OUTLAWS Mayfield Dinner Theatre, Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Ave (483-4051) • Go for a ride with the bad boys of country, featuring the music and offbeat lives of Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash • Until Nov. 4 • $49-$79

NOISES OFF Citadel Shoctor Theatre, 9828-101A Ave (42[illegible]-1820) • By Michael Frayn, directed by Bob Baker, starring John Kirkpatrick, Julien Arnold, and Tom Wood. A funny troupe of well-meaning actors and their stressed-to-the-max director bumble their way from the chaotic dress rehearsal through to the disastrous closing night of their low-budget production of "Nothing On" • Sept. 22-Oct. 14 • Tickets available at the Citadel Theatre box office

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SEXY LAUNDRY Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave (4[illegible]-5564) • Shadow Theatre • By Michele Riml, directed by John Hudson, starring Coralie Cairns and Glenn Nelson. A hilarious and touching look at middle age and marriage • Sept. 19-30 • $25 at TIX on the Square

29 Jubilations Dinner Theatre, 8882-170 St, WEM (484-2424) • Special Agent Jack Bauer always gets his man, in this case, woman • Until Oct. 28

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EASTERN PROMISES / 66
MR. WOODCOCK / 66
THE HUNTING PARTY / 62

Kon's visuals dazzle in dizzying *Paprika*

BRIAN GIBSON / brian@vueweekly.com

THIS ROCKS

ANIME
FRI, SEP 14, MON, SEP 16 (9 PM)
SAT, SEP 15, TUE, SEP 18 (7 PM)
PAPRIKA
DIRECTED BY SATOSHI KON
WRITTEN BY YASUTAKA TSUTSUI, SEISHI MINAKAMI, KON
METRO CINEMA, $10

Satoshi Kon's animated fantasmaganza ***Paprika***, adapted from Yasutaka Tsutsui's novel, starts on a circus stage. A clown car enters as a man (who happens to look exactly like J Jonah Jameson from the Spider-Man comics) is in the stands, telling a clown-masked passerby that someone is watching him. It's the ringmaster, who has the spotlight cast on him, and suddenly the man's trapped in a cage at centre stage, then watches in horror as a swarm of people, all with his face, are told to attack him. The bottom drops out of the bigtop and he falls into a Tarzan world, then a Bond-like flick and finally a red-carpeted hallway, where a man is floating just above the ground.

Confused yet? The plot details in *Paprika* can get a bit murky, but the bottom never does drop out of Kon's festive film, mostly because of the strange, fascinating delights that come alive in each new dream we're whisked through

The man—Captain Konakawa, a cop—was having a dream about the shadowy figure behind an unsolved murder and Paprika is helping him figure it out. Thanks to the recently invented DC Mini, dreams can be accessed and played back on computer. Paprika herself is a girlish redhead who seems to be (though this is one of those aspects of the film that's fuzzy) the projected dream-investigator and alter ego of Atsuko, a woman who works at the labs where the corpulent, immature genius Dr Tokita developed the DC Mini. (Any emotional weight to Atsuko's and Tokita's relationship, centred on Japanese notions of responsibility and duty, gets lost in the cultural translation.) They're overseen by Chief Shima, a friend of Konakawa, and by the Chairman. But when others' dreams start exploding into reality, Atsuko/Paprika has to figure out who's behind it all and stop the nocturnal unconscious from bleeding into the day-to-day world.

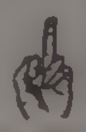
THE ANIMATED STYLE here involves clean lines and a brilliant palette. Creases and folds of noir-ish shadow are played off against projected shafts and bars of light—*Paprika* is about film genres and a tribute to the mutability of the dreamlike film image. Embodying the fluidity of animation, Paprika and others move between worlds and dreams, slipping in and out of the warpholes of billboards, movie screens, TVs, posters and laptop screens. (After all, Paprika says, the internet, like dreams, is where the "repressed conscious mind vents.")

The main invading dream is a spectacular parade of fridges, creepy-cute dolls, robots and animals that streams on in a Freudian babble. Soon dreams merge, selves split, bodies sludge and bloated egos rampage. But the film's generic foundation, the whodunit, is a façade in a story where there's no real sense of threat, since every "reality" can slip-slide into another. Even Konakawa and Shima, near the film's end, stare at each other, confounded, and ask if they are still in a dream or back in the "real world." Notions about eugenics, scientific ethics and technology as a Pandora's Box don't feel fully formed.

While legendary countryman Hayao Miyazaki's animations are closer to a folk story tradition and strive for a sense of magic, Kon's *Paprika* is more of a video game-era film that's interested in a kind of post-modern playfulness. But its visual collision of mindscapes, films within films and dreams within dreams cascade into a dizzying rush that easily washes away the humdrum dialogue and somewhat sketchy plot. ▼

Evoking an error ... er, era in *Klimt*

MARY CHRISTA O'KEEFE / marychrista@vueweekly.com


THIS SUCKS

BIOPIC
FRI, SEP 14, SUN, SEP 16 (7 PM)
SAT, SEP 15, TUE, SEP 18 (9 PM)
KLIMT
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RAOUL RUIZ
STARRING JOHN MALKOVICH, VERONICA FERRES, SAFFRON BURROWS, NIKOLAI KINSKI
METRO CINEMA, $10

"Poor Klimt," mocks the object of the titular character's years-long fetishistic obsession. "He doesn't know where he is. He's lost." At long last, in the final moments of the film, there's some straw of sentiment the audience can empathize with.

Klimt is what happens when the three most difficult tropes in cinema—portraying dawning insanity, deathbed flashbacks and the creative process—are brought together to be totally fumbled, burdened by an incoherent script, sophomoric dialogue, self-conscious camera work and stilted acting

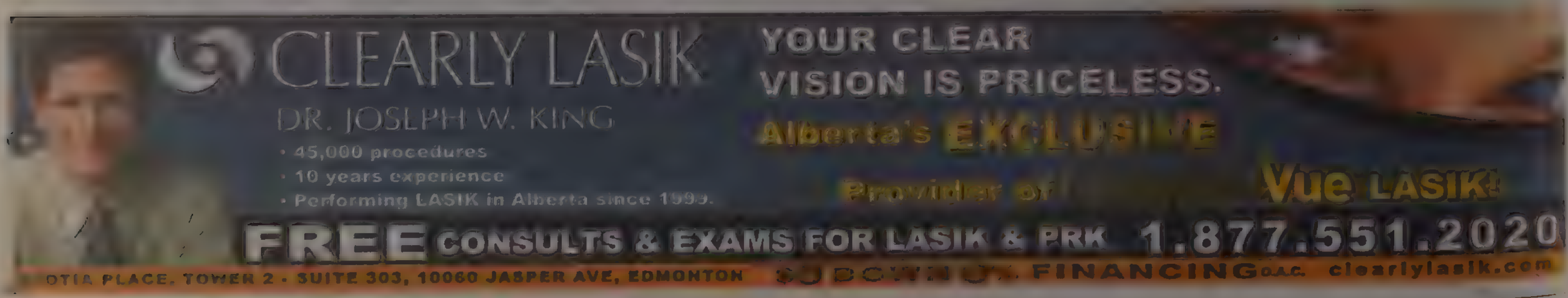
It's difficult to see why the film attracted a European festival award nod during its original 2006 release, except it bullies the earnest into appreciating it, much like willfully obtuse "art" films of the '80s did, with their naked quirky chicks, posh accents and dialogue that would shame Samuel Beckett.

The sad thing is that Gustav Klimt could've dearly used some cinematic illumination of consequence and depth, instead of the gratuitous cartoon provided by Chilean-born veteran writer/director Raoul Ruiz and acted by the empty vessel of John Malkovich. Over the years, Klimt's veneration of female sexuality and ornament has become palatable to the masses. Once a nervy visionary, Klimt's works now adorn coffee mugs and calendars, often serving as a sort of reference shorthand for people who self-identify as both erotic and arty—and wish to have coffee mugs and calendars confirm their assessment. If any historical creative figure was ripe for revisiting, if only to contextualize an aesthetic within the systemic forces that fed and limited it, but hopefully also as a broader portrait of a complex human being, Klimt is a good mercy candidate.

THERE ARE FEW biographical films that adequately convey the humanness of a subject as well as the social factors surrounding them, and to be fair, this doesn't seem to be what Ruiz was after. The story structure, a shooting style that could kindly be termed "hallucinogenic" and weird magnification of genuine details but blurry overall narrative fidelity suggest he was aiming to disrupt the usual relationship between central character and viewer and impart a sense of Klimt's supposed perception, addled by syphilitic toxins and roaring creativity.

The film is lavish in some aspects—the extravagant costumes and sets are divine, and an endless parade of beautiful women in period dress or undress seem alive with Klimt-ness. Simply seeing people next to stand-ins for his works impart a feel for how surprisingly powerful the originals must have been, scaled near the dimensions of life. Klaus Kinski's doppelganger son Nikolai, invests his portrayal of Egon Schiele with consummate Klaus-ness, and the lovely Veronica Ferres brandishes the largest muff ever seen on film (she's fully clothed).

Unfortunately, it takes more than an excellent costumer and set dresser to conjure an era, and more than constant exclamations of shock and scandal by supporting characters to communicate revolution. Reducing any artist to a grim succession of titillations and childish outbursts prevents us from seeing the revolutionary beneath the ornamentation. ▼



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2) Beautiful Girls
Sean Kingston

3) Stronger
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4) Party Like A Rock Star
Shop Boyz

5) The Simpsons Theme
Green Day

6) Crazy B*tch
Buckcherry

7) Buy You A Drank (Shawty Snappin')
T-Pain

8) Umbrella
Rihanna

9) Paralyzer
Finger Eleven

10) Super Mario Bros
Super Mario Bros.

David Cronenburg's latest fulfills his *Eastern Promises*

JOSEF BRAUN / josef@vueweekly.com

THIS ROCKS

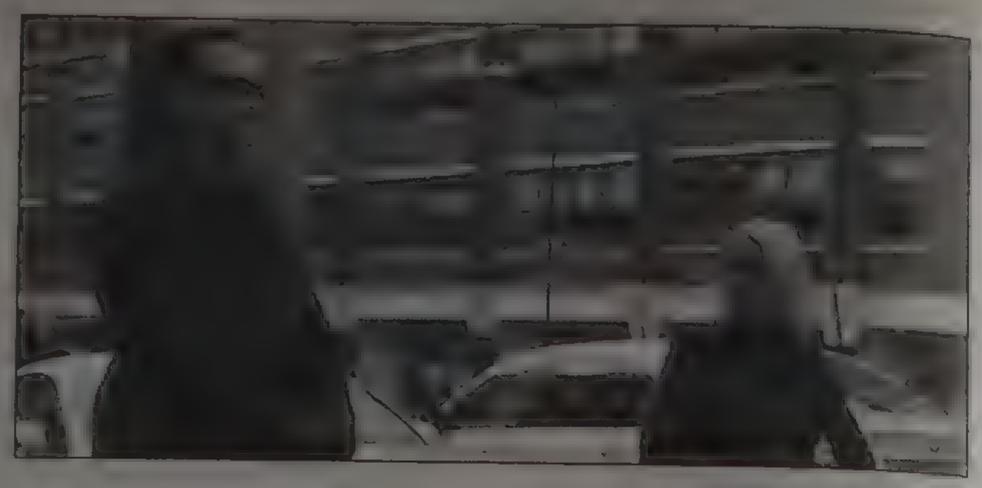
Right from its opening moments, ***Eastern Promises*** flows with painful, unruly rites of parturition, initiation, desecration and earthly departure. It opens with a gruesome killing, a premature birth and the tragic, confused expiration of the girl whose diary will come to haunt the film and its personae. It features bodies being branded, decapitated, displayed and disguised, as well as an attempted assassination in which the intended victim fights for his life while stark naked, a bravura sequence worth the asking price alone.

If the above reads as a particularly body-conscious series of images, it'll come as little surprise to savvy filmgoers that the director of *Eastern Promises* is David Cronenberg. But what's so fascinating about Cronenberg's progress is the way in which his films virtually always reveal something of his distinctive approach and ongoing preoccupations even when their milieus seem virtually antithetical to his established horror/sci-fi background. Set amidst London's Russian underworld, *Eastern Promises* would appear even farther from Cronenberg's comfort zone than *A History of Violence*, yet he brings to the proceedings more than confidence, but also the careful gaze of one of the most passionately curious and unusual minds in movies.

Hospital midwife Anna (Naomi Watts) has in her care a newborn without a mother. All Anna has to assist her in identifying the child is a diary written in Russian and a business card that leads her to a fatherly, blue-eyed restauranteur named Seymon (Armin Mueller-Stahl). The more sinister aspect of Seymon makes itself known soon enough, not the least through Anna's increasing familiarity with Seymon's obnoxious, alcoholic and reckless son Kirill (a particularly flamboyant Vincent Cassel) and the family's stoic chauffer Nikolai (Viggo Mortensen). The diary and its inflammatory contents serve as a sort of Pandora's box, functioning both as Anna's entrée into a dark, socially cloistered realm of immigrant crimeand as a way of flushing Nikolai out of this darkness and into a conundrum of urgent moral dilemma.

THRILLER

OPENS FRI, SEP 14
EASTERN PROMISES
DIRECTED BY DAVID CRONENBERG
WRITTEN BY STEPHEN KNIGHT
STARRING VIGGO MORTENSEN, NAOMI WATTS, ARMIN MUELLER-STAHL, VINCENT CASSEL

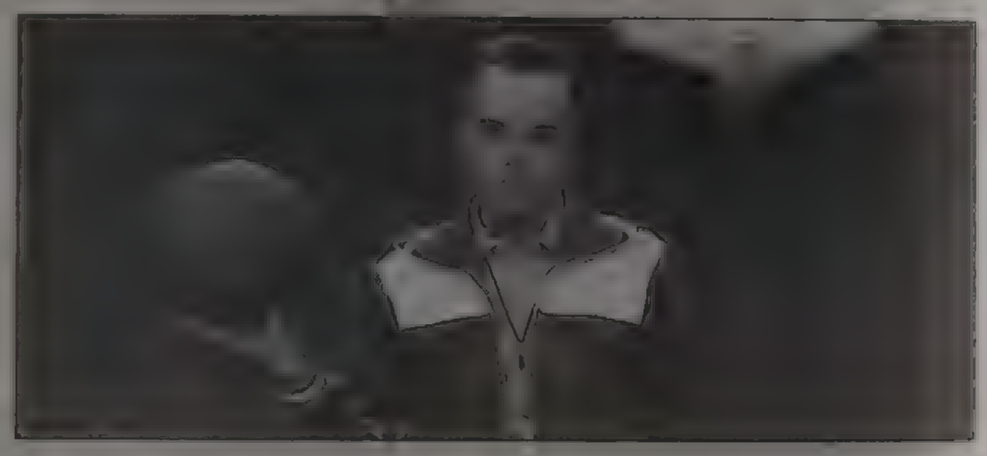


WRITTEN BY STEPHEN KNIGHT, *Eastern Promises* is a taut, layered thriller akin in many regards to his terrific script for *Dirty Pretty Things*. Cronenberg's points of connection are so varied and surprising, his reigning in of the material so clean that, as with *Spider* in particular, the places where the screenwriter's hand departs and the director's takes over are untraceable. Pleasingly, Cronenberg's work of the 2000s is consistently characterized by this honing his own voice through fruitful collaboration rather than strict—and potentially stifling—traditional hyphenate autuerism.

Yet Cronenberg's most notable partner-in-crime these days is surely Mortensen, who gives a flawlessly committed performance here as an intriguing variation on the man who can't escape his violent past he already inhabited so deftly in *A History of Violence*.

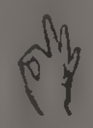
Though he's introduced as a vampire-groomed thug who unflinchingly butts out smokes on his tongue before going about his duties snapping frozen digits off a corpse like so many fish fingers, his Nikolai is a collage of masks and interior conflicts that emerge gradually as his allegiance to Seymon and his involvement in Anna's quest become mutually compromised. More even than Jeff Goldblum in *The Fly*, Mortensen has become Cronenberg's ideal alter ego, an impressively pliable, imposingly muscular junction of raw physicality, prowling anxiety, complicated sexuality and shrewd intellect. And, in any case, he's just amazing in this film.

We can only hope for more from this pairing, though the truth is that where Cronenberg might go from here is delightfully unpredictable and may or may not include further suitable roles for Mortensen. Perhaps he'll borrow a page from the Scorsese-De Niro book and allow Mortensen to mature into a genuine chameleon—a feat which in itself would fit nicely into Cronenberg's study of malleable identity and the monster within. ▼



Mr Woodcock pulls off funny strange

JONATHAN BUSCH / jonathan@vueweekly.com


THIS IS OK

Sometimes, a Hollywood screwball comedy finds its initial concept, the window through which a couple dozen sight gags might climb through, more dynamic and rewarding than the stupid laughs that fill the trailer to entice audiences to see the film. Equally as possible, a moviegoer finds him or herself fed up with vile humour not anchored to credible cinematic substance and begins to search for more relevant meaning behind an otherwise typical movie

Surprisingly, these cosmic happenings occcur with modest fervour in newcomer director Craig Gillespie's rather Oedipal ***Mr Woodcock***. Self-help "it" boy John Farley (Seann William Scott) confronts his traumatic grade school past as he discovers his insufferable former gym teacher Mr Woodcock (Billy Bob Thornton) is engaged to his widowed mother (Susan Sarandon).

COMEDY

OPENS FRI, SEP 14
MR WOODCOCK
DIRECTED BY CRAIG GILLESPIE
WRITTEN BY MICHAEL CARNES, JOSH GILBERT
STARRING BILLY BOB THORNTON, SEAN WILLIAM SCOTT, SUSAN SARANDON

It's all too much pressure for John who has spent the past several years touting inspirational metaphors like "I gave you the raft, you inflated it," and is determined to foil the perfect image Mr Woodcock has displayed for Mrs Farley. So John heads undercover accompanying Woodcock on his day

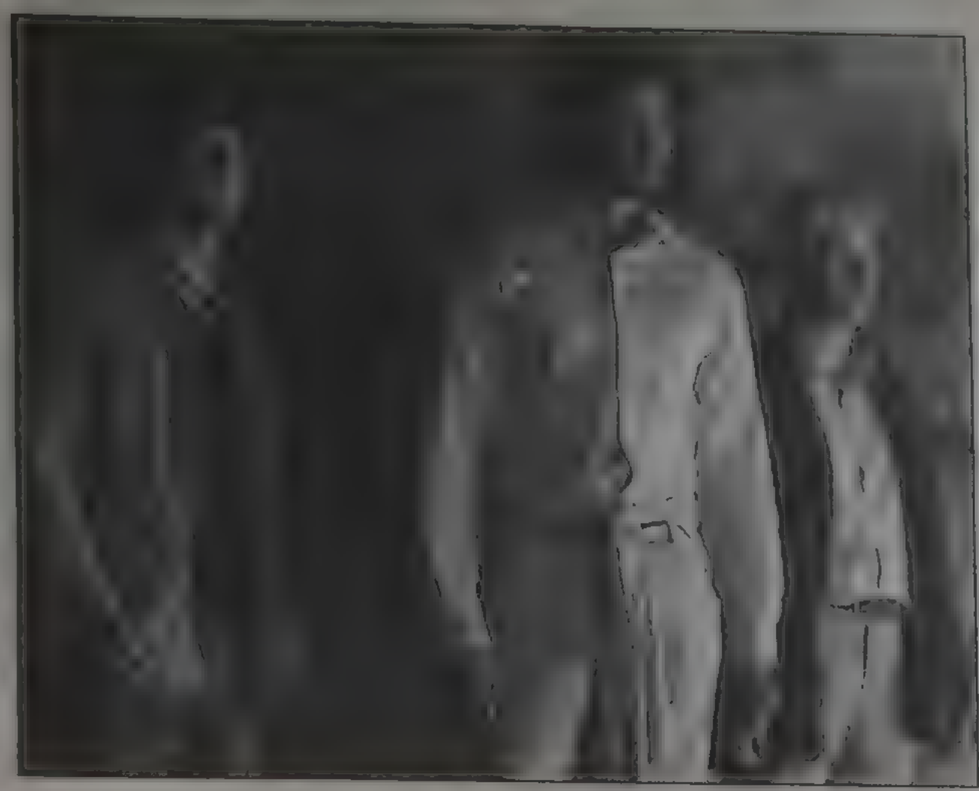
CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

Shephard's story of journalistic escapades is heavy on the *Party*

DAVID CARRY / david@vueweekly.com

If you could say nothing else for Richard Shepard's ***The Hunting Party***, you'd [illegible] give it the fact that [illegible] the most accurate [illegible] of the journalistic [illegible] ever hit film. Not actual journal[illegible] mind you—the messes the trio [illegible] reporters get into here leave them looking a bit too much like James Bond in worse clothes—but the spirit, that blend of functional nihilism, casual cynicism and bemused tolerance that seems to mark anyone whose job it is to pay close attention to the world for [illegible]

THIS IS OK



Bottling that particular mélange of traits is probably the best of what Shepard gets right in his uneven follow-up to the underrated (though similarly flawed) *The Matador*. Where Shepard suffers the most is in trying to show that the wry frown his trio of journalists display so prominently is born of some serious and very sincere experience, not really a façade so much as a necessary reaction to living in extremes.

The Hunting Party follows disgraced former golden boy journalist Simon (Richard Gere) as he convinces former cameraman Duck (Terrence Howard), who has since traded war zones for network headquarters, and green papa's boy Benjamin (Jesse Eisenberg) to follow him into the Bosnian mountains in search of The Fox, the number one war criminal still at large some five years after the war has ended. On the way they run across protective Serbs, a midget smuggler and a UN soldier convinced they're a CIA hit squad, on a journey that seems as much about getting in a few more kicks as it does about finding war criminals.

WAR COMEDY

OPENS FRIDAY
THE HUNTING PARTY
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICHARD SHEPARD
STARRING RICHARD GERE, TERRENCE HOWARD, JESSE EISENBERG

THAT RIGHT THERE is what handcuffs some of what Shepard is trying to do. There is a fairly distressing story behind Simon's motivations—beyond resurrecting his flagging career, that is—but taking it, or much of anything else, seriously is tough to do when the film's main trio smirks their way through most of the action like college boys on a road trip. The obvious tonal analogue is David O Russell's Desert Storm satire *Three Kings*, but the comparison that kept springing to my mind was a failed *24 Hour Party People*: unlike Russell, but much like Michael Winterbottom, Shepard's revelling in a world [illegible] nounced moral ambiguity, but [illegible] seem to make any of the trage[illegible] actually hit home for the view[illegible]

Some of the problems [illegible] from the cast. Though Gere is s[illegible]ingly adept as a scoundrel [illegible] hose primary charms have been drowned in grain alcohol, neither of his conte[illegible]raries seems particularly well-suited to their roles. Eisenberg, who was perfect as the deluded teenager in *Squid and the Whale*, frequently comes across as too glib and nebbishy here, while Howard, who has a bit of a habit being the good part of bad movies, flips that talent here, drifting through a role that never really rises above a flat foil for Gere to play off of.

Still, there are plenty of high points The aforementioned journalistic ethos-capturing aside, so long as things don't try to get too serious, Shepard keeps the film brisk and frothy, and it's awfully hard not to root for Simon's haphazard attempts at spiritual and professional redemption, if only because his cavalier attitude restores some faith in journalism as a profession. ▼

Dumont's sexistentialist Twentynine Palms

FLICKS | **DVDETECTIVE**
BRIAN GIBSON
dvdetective@vueweekly.com

Alice: "... you know there is something very important we need to do as soon as possible?"

Bill: "What's that?"

Alice: "[illegible]"

— the final lines of Eyes Wide Shut, *Stanley Kubrick's last film*

Soft lighting. The couple's under the sheets, delicately covered, but there's some titillating female nudity. The man's on top. The woman always has a gentle orgasm. So comes, and goes, the typical Hollywood-safe sex scene, about as realistic as our hope that our parents only did the dirty deed exactly as many times as they have children.

Cinema has always teased and seduced, from the black-and-white days of mere suggestion to the moment Bertolucci and Brando tangoed us into a Parisian world of butter-aided kinks. But now, in its second century, is cinema flirting with pornography?

Lately, movies hype climaxes for real, penetrative sex. Actors are losing their clothes, inhibitions and on-screen virginity. The apparently genuine sex scenes in Ang Lee's latest (*Lust, Caution*) follow the in-your-face *Shortbus* and *9 Songs*. Catherine Breillat has shoved most of everything before the lens, while other female directors have taken a more fragmented, allusive approach—Claire Denis, for *Vendredi Soir*, and Andrea Arnold, for *Red Road*, use oddly angled close shots.

But art-film pretensions can't always protect explicitness from the cinematically transmitted disease of voyeurism when the medium has such a long history of males gazing at scantily clothed women (only adding to the repressive notion that nudity is sexual). Carlos Reygadas's *Battle in Heaven*, for example, tosses off shots of a young rich girl casually pleasuring her overweight chauffeur.

So when does sex service the story? When is it just porn? And are people watching because cine-coitus is like cooking shows on TV: a lot of the time, we'd rather watch others doing it than bother to do it ourselves? ("Honey, I'm too tired tonight—let's just make love vicariously through the *Shortbus* orgy scene.")

FEWER DIRECTORS HAVE been more explicit yet unconventional and disturbing in their graphic un-coverage of sex than Bruno Dumont, a French philosophy professor turned filmmaker. One of the first shots in his Cannes award-winning anti-mystery *Humanité* (1999) initially seems crass and violating, yet there is a strange, unsettlingly cold poetry to it.

David Cronenberg (head of the jury that awarded *Humanité* its prize), too, has offered up sex in pointedly anti-voyeuristic, even coldly unaffecting ways—just watch the stair sex scene in *A History of Violence* or pretty much all of *Crash*—as if bodies are simply interfacing or colliding with each other.

This is sex as the humble, even pathetic natural urge, the great equalizer that makes us no different, at bottom, from any other creature. It's the glamour and tab "ooh" factor that's built up around it—especially by movies—that's profitably kept it so prurient and perversely fascinating in our culture.

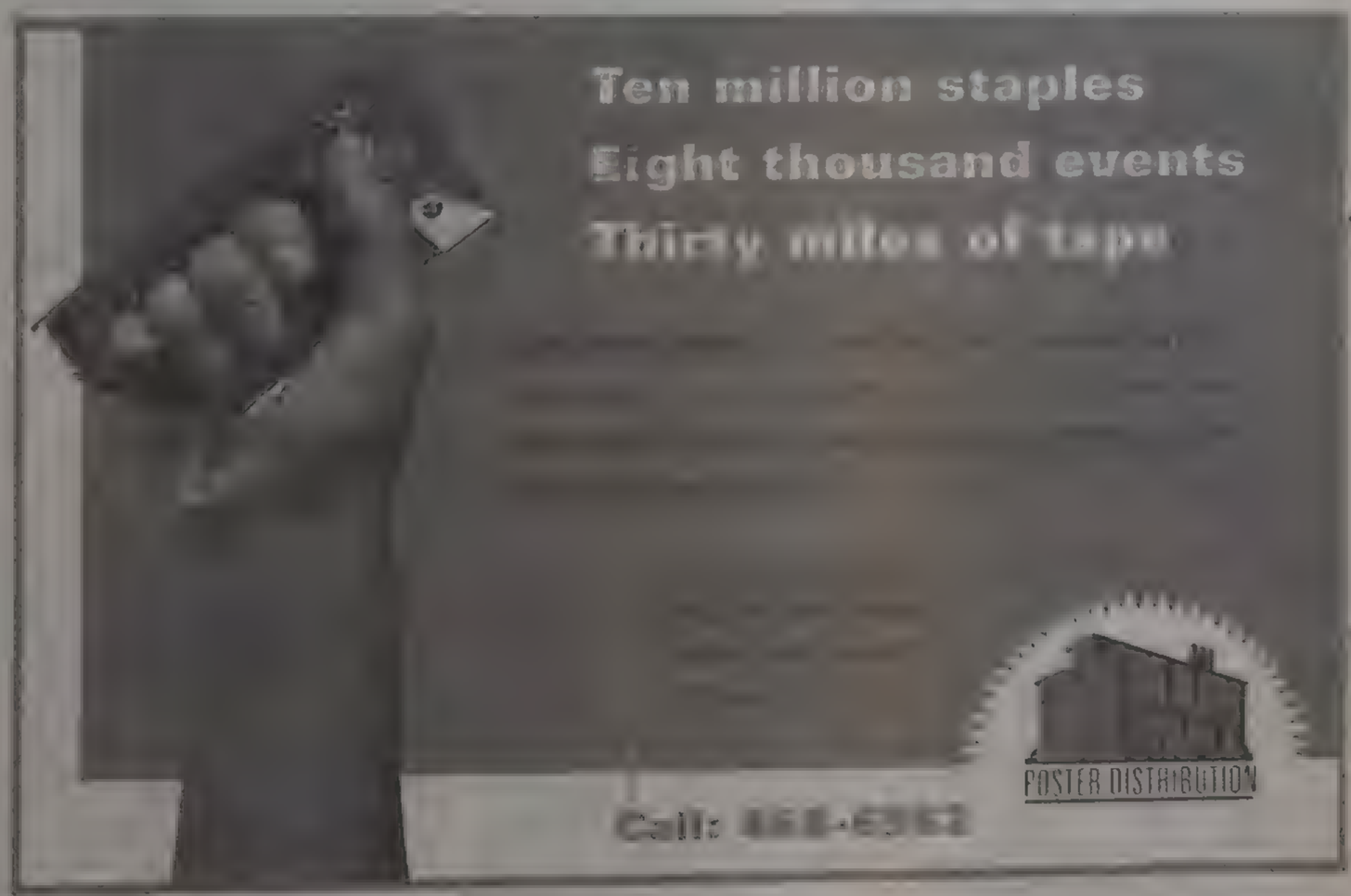
In its mechanical repetition, porn, too, reduces sex to the coldly animal, but it's the messiness of emotions and obsessions, not body fluids, that drenches *Crash* and Dumont's third feature, *Twentynine Palms* (2003), only available in a few Edmonton rental stores. Denounced by many critics, the film follows a couple who take a film location-scouting trip to the California desert town, fight and have (obviously real) sex.

Dumont, in an interview on the Wellspring DVD, calls the film an experiment in a kind of extreme American horror film, a "savage love story" that explores the inherent violence of love. *Twentynine Palms* does so through a sort of minimalist, near-absurd, vicious sexistentialism. (The effect is a little like if *Waiting For Godot* were pared down to the bone and adapted by Peckinpah.)

Dumont's remarkable aesthetic is a strange combination of the detached and the visceral. This film is not to most tastes yet seems almost uninterested in an audience. Here, low-angle scenes and panoramas of the eerie expanse of the Western landscape build a sense of physical menace. In this eerily hollow, arid industrial America, lust and anger are on flip sides of a switchblade and humans return to an Eden stripped nearly bare, where they're swallowed up by nature's immensity.

The couple are scrapping their way through love—David (David Wissak) is by turns reticent and rough with Katia (Katia Golubeva), who often seems on the verge of a breakdown. Their sex is urgent, desperate, almost coarse and increasingly confused with an emotional brutality. The final scenes are savagely devastating, but not unexpected—throughout, a narcissistic, wayward American male rage can only find release in a confusion of sex and violence.

On-screen sex is usually just more entertainment in movies that Dumont calls a "cinema of distraction," but the sex in *Twentynine Palms* reflects a dark truth, echoed in his country's word for orgasm, "petit mort." Ultimately, this startling, strange cine-philosophical experiment throws all the usual voyeuristic conventions of film into such sudden, screeching reverse that sex, we're reminded, is not just the driving force of life but a shuddering foretaste of the end to come. ▼



PRINCESS THEATRE
10337 - Whyte Ave. - 433-0728
INTERVIEW
NIGHTLY 7:10 PM
SAT & SUN MATINEE 1:10 PM
VISIT US ON LINE @ MAGICLANTERNTHEATRES.CA
THE 11TH HOUR
NIGHTLY 9:10 PM
SAT & SUN MATINEE 3:10 PM
VISIT US ON LINE @ MAGICLANTERNTHEATRES.CA

PRINCESS THEATRE
10337 - Whyte Ave. - 433-0728
2 DAYS IN PARIS
NIGHTLY 7:00 PM
SAT & SUN MATINEE 1:00 PM
VISIT US ON LINE @ MAGICLANTERNTHEATRES.CA
A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES
FRESH AND INVENTIVE
BECOMING JANE
NIGHTLY 9:00 PM
SAT & SUN MATINEE 3:00 PM
VISIT US ON LINE @ MAGICLANTERNTHEATRES.CA

Keep on with the guns don't stop, don't stop 'till you *Shoot 'Em Up*

DAVID BERRY / david@vueweekly.com

THIS ROCKS

If you're going to go ahead and make something stupid anyway, you might as well make it unrestrainedly, fantastically, gloriously stupid, something that not only embraces its own stupidity but flaunts it like it should be envied, a foot-long ostrich feather of retardation stuck firmly to its forehead.

With ***Shoot 'Em Up***, Michael Davis has made something so unrestrainedly, fantastically, gloriously stupid, he almost convinces you stupidity is a form of high art, a fleeting, almost impossible-to-capture style as difficult as neo-realism or well-pitched melodrama. To say that Davis revels in the orgiastic gunfights he fills *Shoot 'Em Up* with seems unfair: he has such an obvious devotion to watching men get target-practiced that to call him anything less than an auteur of some of the finest/funniest gunplay ever put to screen. (And really, if we're going to celebrate the lavish sword/kickfests that regularly come out of Asia, why not the grinning, decidedly American gun fetish here?)

CLIVE OWEN IS MORE or less perfectly cast as the reluctant hero Mr Smith, but even his considerable talent as a gravel-faced do-gooder is more or less superfluous here. Paul Giamatti is actually surprisingly adept as the sleazeball out to kill him, but again, Davis is more concerned with the gun he's carrying than how he's carrying it. Oh, there's also some semblance of a plot—a conspiracy involving pregnant women, a US Senator and, naturally, gun control—but when your international star headliners are taking a backseat to bullets, you can only imagine how integral that is to actual movie: it's used entirely to move from set piece to set piece, point A to point blank.

ACTION

NOW PLAYING
SHOOT 'EM UP
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL DAVIS
STARRING CLIVE OWEN, PAUL GIAMATTI, MONICA BELLUCCI, STEPHEN MCHATTIE

But man, what a bunch of incredible set pieces. Smith delivers a baby while shooting off an unnamed gang of thugs. He kills a man with a carrot—twice. He cuts a man's hand off just to use his thumbprint-specific gun. He has a gunfight in mid-air after jumping out of an airplane, angling someone towards a helicopter. He shoots people to Motorhead's "Ace of Spades"; he shoots people to Nirvana's "Breed". Hell, he saves the life of a baby by shoot-starting a playground merry-go-round: if you're going to go ahead and make the gun your star, you might as well get it to do shit like this.

So, yes, *Shoot 'Em Up* is ridiculously stupid. It's called *Shoot 'Em Up*, though, for the love of god: they had damn well better shoot things up, and do it with style. ▼

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THE HUNTING PARTY
NIGHTLY 7:00 & 9:10 PM
SAT & SUN MATINEE 2:00 PM
VISIT US ON LINE @ MAGICLANTERNTHEATRES.CA

Mr Woodcock

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 60

to-day life to spy out his weaknesses, while his pathetic fan and former schoolmate Nederman (Ethan Suplee) digs up dirty evidence about the teacher's despicable past.

WHAT WORKS IN *Mr Woodcock* are brief moments of the abandonment of vulgar humour for a glimpse into the patriarchal unconcious that underlies the narrative. I'm specifically referring to the strange events that occur in the film that don't necessarily warrant for a predicted audience reaction. Often, such events are diagnosed within character and dramatic conflict, where emotional spectacle befuddles the viewer and transports them away from their initial goal of being entertained.

Mr Woodcock trusts its talent for the most part, particularly Thornton's startlingly masculine presence as he exerts the character's intimidating and sexually charged influence on John and his mother. The film allows for this tension to be created, not only in John's uncomfortable flashback sequences of gym class, but in the constant ballsy dueling between him and Woodcock (including a strange, orally fixated corn-eating contest at a local fair).

As unfunny as several sequences put themselves at risk of being (aside from every scene with the enormously talented Amy Poehler as John's alchoholic literary agent), *Mr Woodcock* maintains a fresh but familiar sense of humour as it coasts towards a predictable but satisfying conclusion. Be prepared for the film's climax as it opens with Sarandon waltzing down a staircase in a tiara and pink prom dress; at first, you'll think John's mother has lost it and is expressing some form of Greek-tragedy-style madness, only to discover its logical but absurd significance in the plot.

In other words, come for the comedy, stay for the psychoanalysis. There's plenty to go around. ▼

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FILM WEEKLY

$100 & A T SHIRT Produced by Portland- … Microcosm publishing, this docu- … a look at zine culture in the … Northwest, talking to almost … ever done it themselves, at … is concerned. It is pre- … screening of *Living Room* …, a film about the rise of … in urban areas. METRO CINEMA, … WED, SEP 19 (8:30 PM)

THE BRAVE ONE Jodie Foster stars in Neil … (*Breakfast on Pluto, The Crying* …) about a woman who recovers … attack by deciding to fight … against the scum on the streets. … Yanish's review next week.

EASTERN PROMISES David Cronenburg and Viggo Mortensen team up after 2005's acclaimed *A History of Violence* to deliver this film about London's Russian mafia, written by Steven Knight (*Dirty Pretty Things*). Read Josef Braun's review on page 66.

THE HUNTING PARTY Richard Gere is a disgraced former journalist out to reestab- … his credibility and his bank account while hunting down Bosnia's most notori- …s war criminal, The Fox. Read David …ry's review on page 67.

'I' THE FILM Directors Raphael Lyon and Andres Ingoglia take us inside Indymedia with this revealing documentary. Following a group of Argentinians as they find a local chapter of the worldwide volunteer organization, 'i' takes a look at social movements on the micro and macro levels. METRO CINEMA, ZEIDLER HALL; MON, SEP 17 (7 PM)

KLIMT John Malkovich stars in this biopic about the life of controversial turn-of-the-century Vienna artiste Gustav Klimt from Chilean writer/director Raoul Ruiz (*Le temps perdu*). Read Mary Christa …eete's review on page 64. METRO CINEMA, … SEP 14, SUN, SEP 16 (7 PM); SAT, SEP 15, …

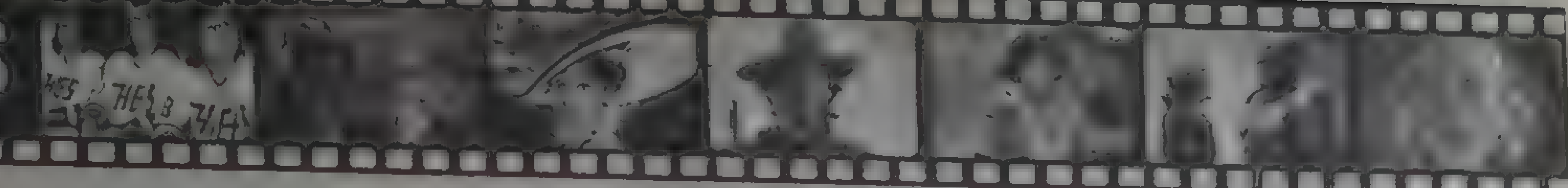
MR. WOODCOCK If Sean William Scott thought Billy Bob Thornton was a dick … he was his junior high gym teacher, … wait until Thornton marries his mom … Sarandon). Hilarity, perhaps? Read …athan Busch's review on page 66.

PAPRIKA Satoski Kon's gorgeous anime … of what happens when a machine … allows psychologists to enter other people's dreams gets stolen, and can only … stopped by a mysterious young girl. … messed up, but it's anime. Read … review on page 64. METRO … HALL FRI SEP 14, SUN, SEP 16 (9 PM); SAT, … (7 PM)

…ER'S PET Clark Gable stars as a … newspaper editor who disguis- … a freshfaced young student … to win the heart of brand … professor Doris Day, in …'s 1958 romantic comedy. … MUSEUM, MON, SEP 17 (8 PM)

FILM LISTINGS

FRI, SEPT 14 - THU, SEPT 20, 2007



All showtimes are subject to change at any time. Please contact theatre to confirm

CHABA THEATRE–JASPER

6094 Connaught Dr, Jasper, 852-4749

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 6:50, 9:10

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Daily 7:00, 9:10

CINEMA CITY MOVIES 12

130 Ave 50 St, 472-9779

THE INVASION (14A)
Fri-Sat 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55; Sun-Thu 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

DADDY DAY CAMP (PG)
Daily 2:05, 4:45, 7:05

BRATZ (G)
Fri-Sat 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30; Sun-Thu 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:15

RESCUE DAWN (14A)
Fri-Sat 9:20, 11:45; Sun-Thu 9:20

LICENSE TO WED (PG, coarse language)
Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10, 11:25; Sun-Thu 1:30, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (14A, violence)
Fri 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 12:25; Sat-Thu 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

1408 (14A, frightening scenes)
Fri 9:55, 12:10; Sat-Thu 9:55

EVAN ALMIGHTY (G)
Daily 2:00, 4:30, 7:30

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG, frightening scenes)
Fri 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:00; Sat-Thu 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG)
Fri 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35, 12:05; Sat-Thu 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35

SURF'S UP (G)
Daily 1:05, 3:10, 5:10, 7:25

KNOCKED UP (18A, sexual content)
Fri 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:40, 12:20; Sat-Thu 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:40

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG, violence, not recommended for young children)
Fri-Sat 12:30, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50; Sun-Thu 12:30, 4:10, 7:30

SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
Fri-Sat 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:25, 11:40; Sun-Thu 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:25

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children)
Fri 9:30, 12:20; Sat-Thu 9:30

CITY CENTRE 9

10200-102 Ave, 421-7020

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Fri-Wed 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35; Thu 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language, no passes)
Fri-Wed 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45; Thu 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Fri-Wed 1:10, 3:40, 7:00, 9:25; Thu 1:10, 3:40, 7:00, 9:25

SUPERBAD (18A)
Fri-Wed 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55; Thu 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Fri-Wed 12:40, 3:30, 7:20, 10:00; Thu 12:40, 3:30, 7:20, 10:00

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Fri-Wed 12:30, 3:20, 6:30, 9:10; Thu 12:30, 3:20, 6:30, 9:10

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Fri-Wed 1:40, 4:30, 6:35; Thu 1:40, 4:30, …

DEATH SENTENCE (18A, violence)
Fri-Wed 9:00; Thu 9:00

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Fri-Wed 1:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20; Thu 1:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Fri-Tue 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00; Wed 1:50, 4:20, 10:00; Thu 1:50, 10:00

CLAREVIEW 10

4211-139 Ave, 472-7600

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language, no passes)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:15, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun 12:50, 3:40, 7:00, 9:40

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:40, 7:40, 9:55; Sat-Sun 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:55

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Fri, Mon-Thu 5:00, 7:10, 9:15, Sat-Sun 12:40, 3:30, 7:10, 9:15

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:20, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun 12:10, 3:00, 6:30, 9:00

RUSH HOUR 3 (PG, coarse language, not recommended for young children)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:50, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun 12:20, 3:10, 7:30, 10:00

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:40, 7:15, 9:45; Sat-Sun 1:10, 3:50, 7:15, 9:45

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:10, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

SUPERBAD (18A)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:00, 6:40, 9:20; Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:25, 7:05, 9:50, Sat-Sun 1:20, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Fri, Mon-Thu 4:30, 6:35, 8:50; Sat-Sun 12:30, 3:20, 6:35, 8:50

GALAXY–SHERWOOD PARK

2020 Sherwood Drive, 416-0150

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Fri 4:50, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15; Mon-Thu 7:40, 10:15

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Fri 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun 1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu 7:10, 9:40

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Fri-Sat 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Sun-Thu 7:20, 10:20

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Fri 4:10, 6:50, 9:20; Sat 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20; Sun 1:20, 4:10, 9:20; Mon-Thu 6:50, 9:20

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Fri 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; Sat-Sun 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; Mon-Thu 7:30, 9:45

SUPERBAD (18A)
Fri 4:00, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun 12:10, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00; Mon-Thu 7:15, 10:00

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Fri 3:30, 6:40, 9:30; Sat-Sun 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30; Mon-Thu 6:40, 9:30

HAIRSPRAY (PG)
Fri 3:50, 6:30, 9:10, Sat-Sun 12:50, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10; Mon-Thu 6:30, 9:10

THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG)
Sat-Sun 1:30

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Fri 4:40, 7:35, 10:10; Sat-Sun 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10; Mon-Thu 7:35, 10:10

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language, no passes)
Fri 3:40, 7:00, 9:50; Sat Sun 12:40, 3:40, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu 7:00, 9:50

WWE: UNFORGIVEN (classification not available)
Sun 6:00

GARNEAU

8712-109 St, 433-0728

THE HUNTING PARTY (G)
Daily 7:00, 9:10; Sat-Sun 2:00

GATEWAY 8

2950 Calgary Trail, 436-6977

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY (14A)
Fri, Mon-Thu 7:05, 9:35, Sat-Sun 1:25, 4:00, 7:05, 9:35

BECOMING JANE (PG)
Fri, Mon-Thu 6:50, 9:30, Sat-Sun 1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:30

WAR (18A)
Fri, Mon-Thu 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun 1:45, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40

NO RESERVATIONS (PG)
Fri, Mon-Thu 6:40, 9:15, Sat-Sun 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG, violence, not recommended for young children)
Fri, Mon-Thu 8:00; Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:20, 8:00

DHAMAAL (PG, subtitled)
Fri, Mon-Thu 6:30, 8:45; Sat-Sun 3:30, 6:30, 8:45

DEATH SENTENCE (18A, violence)
Fri, Mon-Thu 7:00, 9:25; Sat-Sun 1:20, 3:45, 7:00, 9:25

THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG)
Fri, Mon-Thu 7:15, 9:20; Sat-Sun 1:35, 3:40, 7:15, 9:20

GRANDIN THEATRE

Grandin Mall, Sir Winston Churchill Ave, St. Albert, 458-9822

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Daily 1:30 3:30 5:25 7:30 9:20

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Daily 4:15 9:35

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Daily 3:15 5:15 7:10 9:05

STARDUST (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for children)
Daily 12:45

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 1:45 4:25 7:05 9:25

SHOOT EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 12:55 2:35 6:15 7:55

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children, no passes)
Daily 1:05 2:50 4:30 6:10 7:55 9:45

LEDUC CINEMAS

4762-50 St, Leduc, 986-2728

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Daily 1:10, 3:15, 7:05, 9:30

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 12:55, 3:25, 7:10, 9:15

NANNY DIARIES (PG, coarse language)
Daily 1:00, 3:30, 7:00, 9:25

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 1:05, 3:30, 6:55, 9:20

MAGIC LANTERN–CAMROSE

Camrose, 780-608-2144

SHOOT EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 7:10, Sat, Sun, Tue 2:10

310 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 6:55, 9:10; Sat, Sun, Tue 1:55

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Daily 7:00, 9:00. Sat, Sun, Tue 2:00

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Daily 9:15

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language)
Daily 6:50 9:05; Sat, Sun, Tue 1:50

MR WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Daily 7:05 9:20; Sat, Sun, Tue 2:05

MAGIC LANTERN–SPRUCE GROVE

205 Main St, Spruce Grove, 972-2332

MR. BEANS HOLIDAY (G)
Daily 7:00; Sat Sun 2:00

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Daily 9:00; Sat Sun 2:00

METRO CINEMA

9828-101A Ave, Citadel Theatre, 425-9212

Klimt (14A, nudity sexual content)
Fri, Sun 7:00; Sat, Tue 9:00

PAPRIKA (STC)
Fri, Sun 9:00; Sat, Tue 7:00

Kill Bill (VOL 1 AND 2) (18A, gory violence)
Sun 14:00

"I" THE FILM (STC)
Mon 7:00

THE MIAMI MODEL (STC)
Mon 9:00

LIVING ROOM DOCUMENTARY: INFOSHOPS AND A SPACE-BASED CULTURE OF RESISTANCE (STC)
Wed 7:00

$100 & A T-SHIRT: A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ZINES IN THE NORTHWEST US (STC)
Wed 8:30

OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE WORD (STC)
Thu 7:00

NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS

14231 137th Avenue, 732-2223

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

THE BROTHERS SOLOMON (14A, coarse language)
Daily 2:00

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Daily 2:15, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Daily 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00

THE NANNY DIARIES (PG, coarse language)
Daily 4:20, 6:50, 9:15

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Fri, Sun-Thu 12:35, 2:45, 4:50, 7:45, 9:55, Sat 12:35, 2:45, 4:50, 9:55

WAR (18A)
Fri-Thurs 4:15, 7:15, 9:40

SUPERBAD (18A)
Daily 1:50, 4:35, 7:30, 10:10

STARDUST (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for children)
Fri-Sat, Mon, Wed-Thu 12:30, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30; Sun 12:30, 6:40, 9:30; Tue 3:45, 6:40, 9:30; Star and Strollers Screening: Tue 1:00

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Daily 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 10:05

HAIRSPRAY (PG)
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 12:50, 3:30, 6:30, 9:10, Sun 12:50, 3:30, 9:10

RATATOUILLE (G)
Daily 1:10

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Daily 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:45

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language, no passes)
Fri 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30; Sat Mon, Wed-Thu 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30; Tue 4:40, 7:…, 10:30; Star and Strollers Screening: Tue 1:…

THE KINGDOM (14A, violence)
Sneak preview: Sat 7:00

WWE: UNFORGIVEN (classification not available)
Sun 6:00

PRINCESS

10337-82 Ave, 433-0728

2 DAYS IN PARIS (14A, sexual content, coarse language)
Daily 7:00; Sat Sun 1:00

BECOMING JANE (PG)
Daily 9:00; Sat-Sun 3:00

INTERVIEW (14A, coarse language)
Daily 7:10, Sat-Sun 1:10

The 11th Hour (G)
Daily 9:10; Sat-Sun 3:10

SCOTIABANK THEATRE WEM

WEM, 8882-170 St, 444-2400

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Fri-Tue, Thu 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:30; Wed 4:20, 7:20, 10:30; Star and Strollers Screening: Wed 1:00

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language)
Fri-Tue, Thu 12:45, 3:40, 7:00, 10:00; Wed 3:40, 7:00, 10:00; Star and Strollers Screening: Wed 1:00

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 12:00, 2:25, 4:40, 7:45, 10:20

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 1:10, 4:10, 7:25, 10:25

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Fri, Sun-Thu 1:00, 3:45, 7:15, 10:10, Sat 3:45, 7:15, 10:10

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu 12:05, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:50; Mon 12:05, 4:00, 9:50

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Fri, Sun-Tue, Thu 12:25, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30 Sat, Wed 12:25, 3:00, 9:30

SUPERBAD (18A)
Daily 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:40

RUSH HOUR 3 (PG, coarse language, not recommended for young children)
Daily 12:30, 6:40

STARDUST (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for children)
Fri-Sat, Mon Thu 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40 Sun 12:50, 6:50, 9:40

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Fri-Tue, Thu 12:35, 4:00, 7:40, 10:45, … 7:40, 10:45

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY (14A)
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thu 3:30, 10:15, Sun 3:25, 10:15

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX: IMAX 3D (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children)
Daily 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:00

TRANSFORMERS (PG, violence, not recommended for young children)
Fri Sat, Mon-Thu 12:20, 3:20, 6:45, 9:55 Sun 12:20, 3:20, 9:55

THE KINGDOM (14A, violence)
Sneak Preview: Sat 7:00

DAVID GILMOUR: LIVE AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL (Classification not available)
Sat 1:00

WWE: UNFORGIVEN (classification not available)
Sun 6:00

SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON

1525-99 St, 436-8585

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 1:00, 3:50, 7:15, 10:10

THE BROTHERS SOLOMON (14A, coarse language)
Daily 12:45

HALLOWEEN (18A, brutal violence, gory scenes)
Daily 8:00, 10:30

BALLS OF FURY (PG, not recommended for young children)
Daily 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

THE NANNY DIARIES (PG, coarse language)
Fri-Wed 1:10, 3:40, 6:45, 9:15; Thu 1:10 3:40, 9:15

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)
Fri, Sun-Thu 12:15, 2:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:10, Sat 12:15, 2:20, 4:40, 9:10

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Daily 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language, no passes)
Fri-Mon, Wed-Thu 1:20, 4:15, 7:…, 10:15 …

SUPERBAD (18A)
… 00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20

RUSH HOUR 3 (PG, coarse language, not recommended for young children)
Fri,Sun-Thu 12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50 Sat … 7:40, 9:50

STARDUST (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for children)
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thu 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, … Sun 12:50, 6:40, 9:30

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Daily 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:4…

HAIRSPRAY (PG)
Fri-Sat,Mon-Thu 12:20, 3:10, 6:30, 9:00 …

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children)
Daily 1:45, 4:45

TRANSFORMERS (PG, violence, not recommended for young children)
Daily 6:45, 10:00

RATATOUILLE (G)
Fri-Mon, Wed-Thu 1:30, 4:10, Tue 4:10; Star and Strollers Screening: Tue 1:…

THE KINGDOM (14A, violence)
Sneak Preview: Sat 7:00

DAVID GILMOUR: LIVE AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL (Classification not available)
Sat 1:0…

MITTI WAJAAN MAARDI (STC)
Daily 12:30, 4:30, 8:30

THE HUNTING PARTY (14A, coarse language)
Daily 1:5…, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15

WWE: UNFORGIVEN (classification not available)
Sun 6:00

WEST MALL 8

8882-170 St, 444-1829

BRATZ (G)
Fri 5:10, 7:30; Sat-Sun 12:40, 2:55, 5:10 7:30; Mon-Thu 7:30

DADDY DAY CAMP (PG)
Fri 4:40, 6:40; Sat-Sun 12:4… 6:40; Mon-Thu 6:40

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (14A, violence)
Fri, Mon-Thu 6:5… 3:45, 6:50, 9:30

EVAN ALMIGHTY (G)
Fri 5:00, 7:10, 9:20; Sat Sun … 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, Mon-Thu 7…

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG, frightening scenes)
Daily 9:50

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG)
Daily 8:45

SURF'S UP (G)
Fri 5:05; Sat-Sun 1:10, 3:00, 5:05

KNOCKED UP (18A, sexual content)
Fri, Mon Thu 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun 1:05, … 7:00, 9:40

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG, violence, not recommended for young children)
Fri 4:45, 8:30; Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:45, 8:30 Mon-Thu 8:30

ONCE (14A)
Daily 7:15, 9:45

SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
Fri 4:30, 6:45, 9:00; Sat-Sun 1:… 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, Mon-Thu 6:45, 9:00

WESTMOUNT CENTRE

111 Ave, Groat Rd, 455-8726

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
DTS Digital Fri, Mon-Thu 6:45, 9:20; Sat-Sun 12:30, 3:10, 6:45, 9:20

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (14A)
Fri, Mon-Thu 7:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun 12:40 3:15, 7:00, 9:35

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
DTS Digital Fri, Mon-Thu 7:10, 9:15, Sat-Sun 1:00, 3:00, 7:10, 9:15

THE BRAVE ONE (14A, violence, coarse language)
Fri Mon-Thu 6:55, 9:30; Sat-Sun 12:50 3:30, 6:55, 9:30

WETASKIWIN CINEMAS

…

MR. WOODCOCK (PG, coarse language, sexual content, not recommended for young children)
Daily 1:05, 3:20, 7:05, 9:20

SHOOT 'EM UP (18A, gory scenes)
Daily 12:55, 3:25, 7:00, 9:15

MR. BEAN (G)
Daily 1:10, 3:30, 7:10, 9:30

3:10 TO YUMA (14A, violence)
Daily 1:00, 3:15, 6:55, 9:25

TOM SAVAGE TRIO / 75
TWO HOURS TRAFFIC / 77
THREE DAYS GRACE / 79

It's a long way to the top when women rock 'n' roll

EDEN MUNRO / eden@vueweekly.com

MUSIC | ROCKER CHICKS

Spend a few minutes scouring the internet looking for something along the lines of "sexy album covers" and you'll quickly turn up a vast assortment of images that have graced the jackets of all kinds of records, from Whitesnake's *Love Hunter* to Ween's *Chocolate and Cheese* to Christina Aguilera's *Stripped*. And while there's plenty of variety in the sounds that each of those albums holds within its covers, the one thing shared amongst them all—and plenty of others, too—is the placement of scantily clad women at the front and centre.

It's difficult to deny that, for most of its history, rock 'n' roll has been a male dominated form of music but not every female is under the thumb of male powers. While someone like Madonna, who keeps a tight reign on the control of both her image and her music, might be an exception in a world that is beset by insta-star making machines like *American Idol*, with singers being judged more on their ability to perform material written by professional songwriters than their own creativity, the fact remains that there are women out there who are capable of so much more, and who are right now flexing their own creative muscles.

Kim Rackel makes up one half of the horn section in **The Wet Secrets**, and she admits that there were a few female musicians who intrigued her as a child—The Misfits, the rocker girls from the cartoon *Jem and the Holograms*, and Joan Jett—but as much as she was thrilled by the images, she was never won over by an aesthetic alone

"I was pretty infatuated with Madonna when I was little, and Michael Jackson—I loved Michael Jackson, as well—but I think it was more the sparkles and the dancing," she recalls. "It was the music—I loved the music, too—but I think it was the whole package ... I thought it was pretty goddamn cool."

The other half of the band's horn section is Donna Ball, who has also held down the bass for local metal band Some Won Spit, and she agrees with Rackel's assertion that music is about more than simply the image. Counting off the first bands that she listened to while growing up, Ball doesn't name a single act with any sort of official female presence.

"When I was a kid I really liked Bon Jovi and Def Leppard, Glass Tiger—whatever my sister listened to is what I liked when I was little," she explains. "I didn't really think about female influence. It was always 100 per cent music. I was always more about music—I can play music, I like it, I'm good at it—more so than having an idol in music."

After moving from the West Coast to Edmonton, singer-songwriter **Sall Gibson** says that she has been impressed with the number of girls she has seen out playing at this city's numerous open mic nights. Gibson says that her initial influences were, like Ball's, more male-centric than female, though for different reasons.

"If anything, women musicians influenced me in a reverse way," she chuckles. "Because my vocal styling is in a lower range I was frustrated constantly because I couldn't sing any of the female songwriters that I liked, so I ended up playing a lot of guy's songs."

JUST AS WOMEN count plenty of male musicians as influences, the opposite is often true of men. Edmonton's Eamon McGrath, who performs solo and with both The Wild Dogs and **Red Medicine**, says that he was already looking up to local all-girl punk band The Homewrekers when he was 13 years old, and today he lists both Joni Mitchell and Lucinda Williams among his favourite songwriters. McGrath is also quick to add that he likes all of them because of their songs, not the novelty of a woman playing music.

In fact, the idea of shaking up the traditional male mentality of rock 'n' roll with a female presence is something that McGrath takes seriously—the drummer in his first band was a girl and until just a few days ago his girlfriend was playing bass in The Wild Dogs.

"It's good to have girls in bands because they do bring a specific perspective to the music," McGrath considers. "There's something very male about rock 'n' roll and when you see a perspective from the other side of the gender fence it's really refreshing.

"I'm not trying to say that there are these great, vast differences between guys and girls," he emphasizes before continuing, "but the reality is that rock 'n' roll is a phallic kind of attitude historically, and changing that up is good."

IF THERE IS SOME pressure for female musicians to put forward a particular image, it certainly doesn't manifest itself in some overarching rule that applies to everyone, as Gibson makes clear.

"Because I'm a songwriter and I'm a reasonably proficient guitar player, I don't really think about the image thing too much," she says. "I mean, I'm most comfortable on stage with my toque and my hoody and would never really think twice about going on stage like that."

For Rackel and Ball, sexuality is something that they have few problems with when it comes to the stage—in addition to The Wet Secrets, both women also perform with Capital City Burlesque.

"I can pretty much get on the stage and act like a total retard and take off my clothes at the same time, and be okay with it," Rackel laughs, adding, "So I guess prancing around in the giant boots and the little marching band outfits that we have—we're pretty comfortable doing it."

BOBBI-JO MOORE, the singer/guitarist for Vancouver's **The Elixxxirs**, admits that she's never had any serious difficulties in music that she would attribute to her gender and she points out that there are some possible advantages for females in the industry, too, partly due to the fact that there are statistically a whole lot more men playing in bands.

"For me, booking gigs is really easy and it has been ever since I started the band," she notes. "Even if [a promoter] hadn't heard our music or anything, if I went up and talked to them they'd seem to give us a show. So I'm not exactly sure if that's because I'm female—I think that has something to do with it—or if it's my outgoing personality, but I've heard from a lot of my friends who are guys in bands and they don't seem to have the same success. They have to try harder to get gigs."

Moore goes on to say that she would be at a bit of a loss if image were the number one concern.

"One of the things that attracts our fans is the songs," she says. "I'm not the greatest singer in the world and I'm not the greatest guitar player, either, but I write really great songs [that are] catchy and people like to dance to them. As a female, if I was singing other people's songs it would be a lot harder."

She sees the respect that she gets from other musicians as a direct result of working her way up from the bottom, rather than being plucked from obscurity and paraded around by a bunch of handlers.

In the end, Ball agrees that it's important for women to prove themselves as musicians. "I don't think a lot of people think that girls can play," she admits regarding the challenges facing female musicians today, but she adds that, once the initial shock wears off, acceptance is usually not all that far behind. "You just have to prove yourself, I suppose.

"It's almost not a sex issue and just an issue of talent, because I think that everyone has to go through it," she says. "I don't think it matters what gender you are." ▼

[illegible]
SALL GIBSON
CAFÉ SELECT, FREE

FRI, SEP 14 (8 PM)
THE ELIXXXIRS
WITH LEVEL SIX ELFS
[illegible]

SAT, SEP 15 (2 PM - 7 PM)
RED MEDICINE
WITH HOLZKOPF, BAYONETS!!!, FERAL CHILDREN, RIVER CITY BOYZ, ASHES, COCAINE EYES, DOUBLETHINK AND MORE
BORDEN PARK AMPHITHEATRE, FREE (ALL AGES)

THU, SEP 20 (8 PM)
THE WET SECRETS
WITH BENO SINISTER, THE CLIPS
STARLITE ROOM, $10

The merits of sweet potato pie

MUSIC | BACKLASH BLUES
ROLAND PEMBERTON
roland@vueweekly.com

DJ Assault's high-powered Sep 1 set at The Starlite Room led me to thinking about the nature of sexuality in music. In the process of dancing my ass off and drunkenly annoying the people around me, I wondered what made this experience so special. Why did his dance music elicit a more sexual response from me than other genres do? I'm beginning to think it lies somewhere within the psychological principle of association.

DJ Assault's music is overtly sexual. It is based on high BPMs, jittery bass lines and sexually suggestive chants. One song personifies sweet potato pie as a sexual object ("The pie's too sweet / Gimme a piece of meat / The meat's too tough / I want that funky stuff!"), while another is merely the words "ass" and "titties" repeated at various intervals.

Perhaps it isn't highbrow in the traditional sense, but from a programming standpoint, DJ Assault is considered the king of ghetto electro house, blasting out his addictive rhythms at rapid speed. I wondered why I was aroused by music so obviously waving the banner of sex. It seemed similar to going on iTunes and buying that song by 50 Cent called "I Get Money." I'm usually not an easy mark. My dance boner was a result of my mental association between dance music and previous sexual experiences, not unlike other things in life.

I mentally associate sex with drinking because ever since junior high I've been going to house parties, getting drunk and trying to kiss girls. The stimulus of positive reward in these situations created the association. The same goes for dance parties and, as a result, the DJ Assault show.

Incidentally, Akon is playing River Cree Casino on Sep 21. His songs are unabashedly about boning and the circumstances around you, the listener, getting to bone him. His stage show at one point featured him vigorously grinding an underage female fan on the ground to the point of bruising her. The point I'm getting at is that tons of digital kids out there actually equate Akon with a realistic view of sex.

WHY DO PEOPLE FIND music sexy? When soft, melodic music is the soundtrack to a make-out session, one can't help but think of scenes from modern cinema as the reason. But the idea of presenting an associative idea—having sex—through a particular voice—Leonard Cohen, for example—is entirely normal. Consider Justin Timberlake: it is generally considered that he is sexually attractive, based on a combination of his looks, wealth, musical talent and dancing ability. Is it how these factors are presented that makes them trigger a reaction in the audience or is it just a continuation of basic animal magnetism?

Was I more sexually charged in my dancing because I knew Assault was the one playing the tracks? Was I behaving in a specific way based on what I thought was expected of me, the audience member, at a DJ Assault show? That might be a bit too sharp, because people don't just go around asking random girls to hop in their van and have sex after watching a BangBus video. But I think association can be enhanced by certain circumstances, so sexual association with music is natural. I shouldn't feel like a guinea pig for thinking about sex when DJ Assault puts on a song called "Hit It From The Back." ▼

Montréal indie band makes good

AS IF WE HAVEN'T USED THAT HEADLINE BEFORE...

CAROLYN NIKODYM /carolyn@vueweekly.com

When you talk to artists, authors or actors, you often find that many of them have always had aspirations to follow their particular passion.

Not so for Alex Hackett. Nope, a couple of years ago the guitarist and vocalist for Montréal-based **Kill the Lights** found himself jobless in Toronto when he and boyhood friend Yann Geoffroy looked at each other and said, "let's start a band."

"I'd always played music," Hackett says. "I had a couple of bands before that I never really took that seriously—forced myself to get on stage a couple of times."

But this time would be different.

"The Canadian scene was just starting to bubble, and we were getting pretty excited about what we were hearing locally," Hackett says. "And it was kind of fortuitous, I guess you could say. Right time, right place, right motivation."

Hackett and drummer Geoffroy were joined by bassist (and Blue Man) John Dignard in Toronto before guitarist/keyboardist Joe Yarmush and vocalist/keyboardist Steph Hanna joined the ranks and four of the five made for Montréal, where Hackett and Geoffroy lived before.

"We're trying to convince Dignard to come to Montreal," Hackett says. "I don't know if it's going to work, but hopefully it will."

Despite the five-hour drive on the 401 between them, the members delivered a fully realized and cohesive debut, last February's *Buffalo of Love*, a revamped and reordered vision of the band's 2005 independent release *Winter Asthmatics*.

INFLUENCES ON THE album ring clearly—you hear echoes of Pavement and Interpol as well as early U2 and New Order—and bears some familiar trappings of indie rock, but the band also pushes past them, the melding of two guitars, bass, keyboards and slamming drums with Hackett and Hanna's vocals creates the haunting wall of sound that has attracted fans out East and seen Kill the Lights open for a host of prominent indie-rock bands.

PREVUE

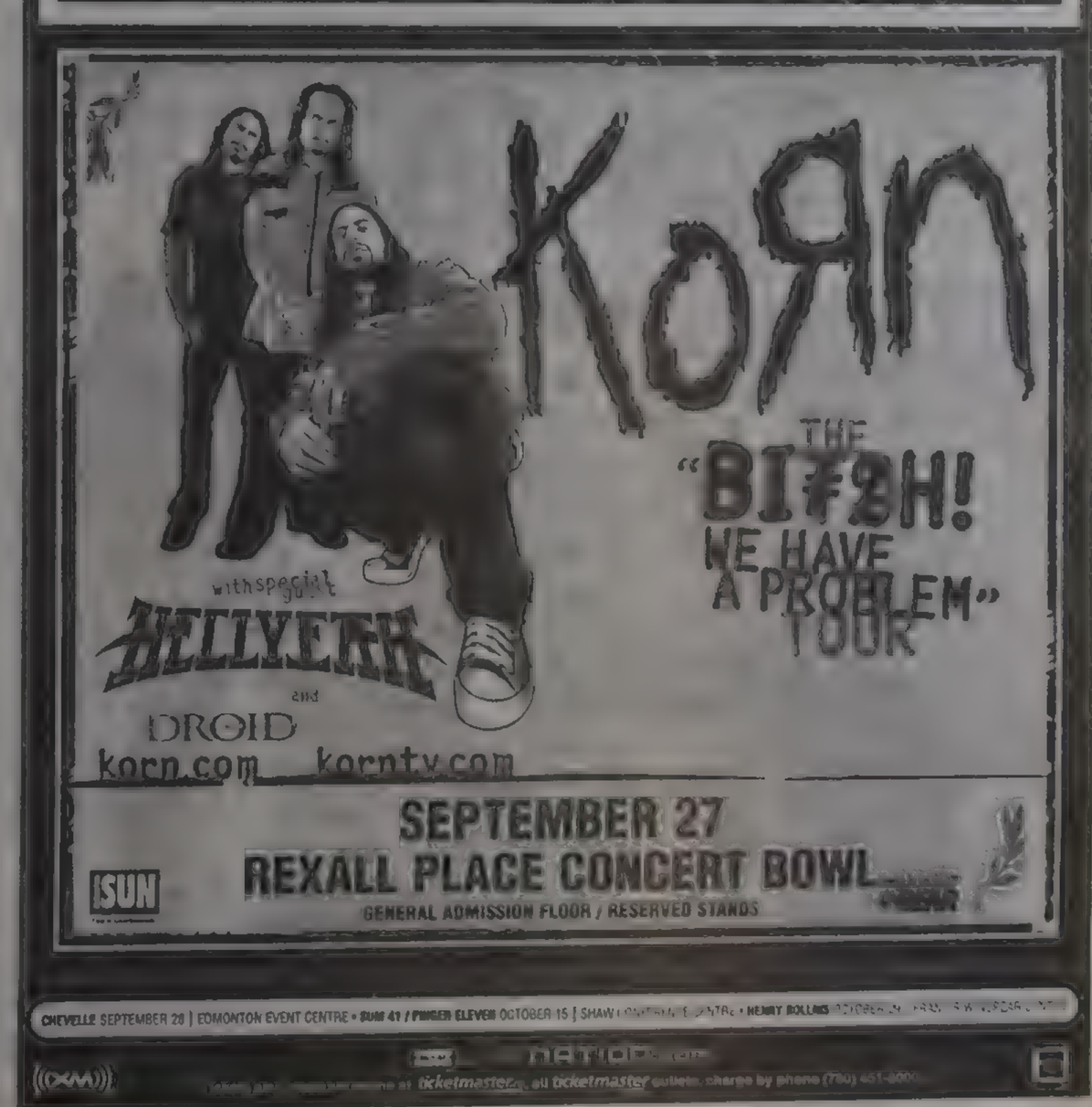
SUN, SEP 16 (8 PM)
KILL THE LIGHTS
WITH K-OS
STARLITE ROOM, $29.50

It probably goes without saying that Kill the Lights feels blessed that its first foray to points west of Winnipeg is in support of Bedouin Soundclash and k-os—even though the artistic direction of each entity seems disparate

"We're not political. It's definitely something more abstract," Hackett says. "It's generally associative or stuff like that. I grew up reading and writing, and I took literature and philosophy in school. And I did a masters—basically I read a little bit too much than would be good for my mental health. I used to be big into poetry; I used to be big into heavy literature, and so that all filters its way into my lyrics. It's not a particular subject from song to song. It's more about images and creating a mood or a vibe, as opposed to saying, 'This is what it's about.'"

And when you immerse yourself into the driving rhythm and catchy hooks of a track like "Two Sinister Gentlemen," you'll find the mood to be infectious, that you want to kill the lights and worship at the altar of the dance floor.

"Music's kind of like religion, in a sense. I think it's nourishment. People can't do without it—I don't think that it's an exaggeration to say so," he says emphatically. "If you look at our culture, and if you look at most cultures throughout history, you've always got music and it's always had an important—if not essential—role. I don't know what it is about the human soul that requires music, but I believe that it's a necessity. I think that can influence people in various ways, but I think that it's a necessity." ▼



LISTINGS FOR YOU

MUSIC WEEKLY

[illegible] LISTINGS TO [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] AT 3 PM

THU LIVE MUSIC

ARDEN THEATRE [illegible] 7:30pm, $30 at TicketMaster, Arden [illegible]

ATLANTIC TRAP AND GRILL [illegible]

BACKDRAUGHT PUB [illegible]

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ Cuban Missile Crisis Presents: Jones Bones, Wantmonster, D N R (punk)

BLIND PIG Moosehead Thursday New Age open stage hosted by West of Winnipeg

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ Stephanie Hardy Timothy Charisson; 8pm; $8

CAFÉ SELECT Sail Gibson (folk rock singer-songwriter); 8pm; no cover

CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB Open stage hosted by Alberta Crude [illegible]

DINWOODIE LOUNGE Mute Math Eisley; all ages event; 7pm (door) $14.50 at Unionevents.com TicketMaster, Megatunes, Blackbyrd, Listen

DRUID [illegible]

DUSTER'S PUB [illegible] hosted by the Mary Thomas Band

FOUR ROOMS [illegible] $3

HULBERT'S [illegible] writer); 8pm; $5 (door)

THE IVORY CLUB Live Dueling Pianos, no cover, 8pm

JAMMERS PUB [illegible]

J AND R BAR AND GRILL [illegible] stage with the Poster Boys (pop/rock/blues), 8:30pm-12:30am

JEFFREY'S Jimmy Gnecco (pop/rock)

JULIAN'S PIANO BAR-CHATEAU LOUIS Graham Lawrence (piano jazz)

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Nikkus Trick, All Else Fails, Skull Device, La Bella Vendetta, no minors, 8pm [illegible]

NORTH GLENORA HALL [illegible] Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers

O'BYRNE'S Mr. Lucky (blues/roots); [illegible]

ON THE ROCKS [illegible] (latin)

OVERTIME BOWLER [illegible] Pink; 8pm

REXALL PLACE Beyonce; 7:30pm $64-$125 at TicketMaster

STARLITE ROOM The Fucking Champs, Birds of Avalon, guests, part of the Kokanee music series, tickets at TicketMaster, Blackbyrd, Freecloud, Listen

URBAN LOUNGE [illegible]

WILD WEST SALOON [illegible]

CLASSICAL

CITY HALL, CITY ROOM [illegible] Fair; 7:30-9:30pm; free

JUBILEE AUDITORIUM [illegible] Symphony Orchestra, Yo-Yo Ma Gala (cellist), William Eddins (conductor) 6:30pm; sold-out

DJS

BACKROOM VODKA BAR [illegible] Nights: Electro Education: dub, trip hop, lounge, electro with DJ Lazer [illegible]

BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE [illegible]

BLACKDOG FREEHOUSE [illegible] Thursdays: DJs spin on two levels

BUDDY'S Wet underwear contest with Mia Fellow, midnight, DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy

ESMERALDA'S Big and Rich Thursday: top 40, country

FOXY MCRASTY'S [illegible] Bingo with DJ S.W.A.G

FLUID LOUNGE Girls Night out

FUNKY BUDDHA (WHYTE AVE) Requests with DJ Damian

GAS PUMP Ladies Nite: Top 40/dance with DJ Christian

GINSUP SXY [illegible] Thursdays: with InVinceable, Touch It, Lady Vishus

KAS BAR Urban House: with DJ Mark Stevens; 9pm

LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Dish Thursdays funky house/techno with DJ Colin Hargreaves, house/breaks with DJ Krazy K, hardstyle/techno with DJ Decha, tech trance/electro with DJ Savage Garret; no minors; no cover

NEW CITY I Love '80s Thursdays 9pm (door); no cover

NEW CITY Bride of Bingo Thursdays hosted by Dexter Nebula and Anarchy Adam; 10pm; no minors; no cover

ON THE ROCKS Salsaholic Thursdays: Dance lessons at 8pm, Salsa DJ to follow

OVERTIME BOWLER AND TAP-ROOM SOUTH [illegible] rock, R&B, urban and dance with DJ Mikee, 9pm-2am, no cover

PLANET BOOTOO - ST. ALBERT [illegible] Thursdays: breaks, electro house spun with PI residents

RED STAR Femme Fatale: rock, pop hip hop with DJ Kelty

THE ROOST Gorgeous: featuring hostess Dr. Lexxxi Tronic, Drag Kings and Queens, burlesque and rotating game shows, bands upstairs monthly

VELVET UNDERGROUND [illegible] WLCM: Electro, techno, no wave with DJ Nik 7 of Shout Out Out Out Out, 8pm (door)

FRI LIVE MUSIC

ATLANTIC TRAP AND GRILL [illegible] Robison

AVENUE STAGE BAR [illegible] Battle, The Fortunate, All Else Fails, Difinity and Die Daily; 7pm (Door); $8 (until 8pm)/$10 (after 8pm)

AXIS CAFÉ Friday Live Music Nights

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ Jones Bones and guests

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ Emaline Delapaix, Chloe Hall, Anita George; 8pm; $8

CENTURY CASINO Bryan White, $15 at TicketMaster; Don Johnston, [illegible]

FESTIVAL PLACE Carole Pope with rock band; 7:30pm; $32 (cabaret)/$30 (box)/$28 (theatre) at the Festival Place box office, TicketMaster

FORT MCMURRAY–KEYANO COLLEGE [illegible]

FOUR ROOMS Mobius, 9pm, $5

FRESH START Ron Taylor

HULBERT'S Kenstan Vaughan Trio (jazz); 8pm; $5 (door)

THE IVORY CLUB Live Dueling Pianos, no cover, 9pm

JAMMERS PUB Country/rock band, 9-2am

JEFFREYS CAFÉ Helena Magerowski (jazz), $10

JEKYLL AND HYDE PUB [illegible] (classic rock) 9:30pm

JULIAN'S PIANO BAR-CHATEAU LOUIS Graham Lawrence (piano jazz)

MEYRA BILLIARDS [illegible] Bag Pipe Rock and Roll McCuaig; $7

MORSETTA'S BAR AND GRILL Terry Jorden, piano, 8-10pm

ON THE ROCKS [illegible]

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM Peter Pirquet, Kane, Welch, Kaplin, 8pm; $20 (adv at TIX on the Square/$22 (door)

STARLITE ROOM [illegible] Mervyn Albin, First Aid Kit, part of the Kokanee music series, tickets at TicketMaster, Blackbyrd, Freecloud Listen

TEDDY'S PALACE Dr. Boogie

TOUCH OF CLASS LOUNGE Howard Younge (pop)

URBAN LOUNGE [illegible]

WILD WEST SALOON [illegible]

WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE The Mary Thomas Band

X-WHICK'S PUB [illegible] (blues/rock), 8pm-12am

DJS

BACKROOM VODKA BAR Funky Friday: Funky breaks, funky house funky tunes with Phife and friends

BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Connected Fridays: local house music with DJs and occasional international special guest DJ

BAR B-BAR [illegible]

BAR WILD Bar Wild Fridays

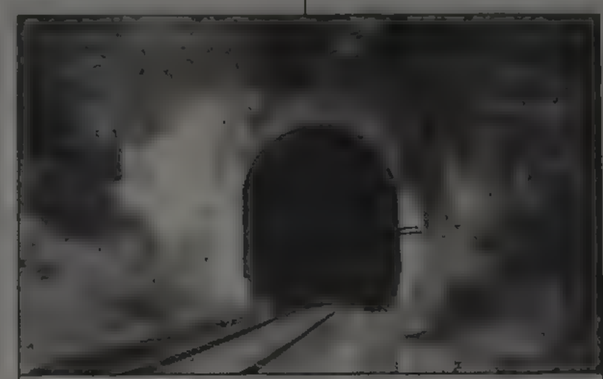
BLACKDOG FREEHOUSE [illegible] two levels, Rooftop: DJs Ben Jammin' and Bobby Torpedo heat up the patio

GAS PUMP Top 40/dance with DJ [illegible]

HALO Mod Club: indie rock, new [illegible]

KHZ A Rock and Hatchmatik with Merk Meny and DJ Echo featuring Bailefunk, Electro, Booty, Ghettotech, Bmore, Juke and all other serious party jams; 9pm (door), $10

LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Hypnotiq Friday Breakbeat, house, progressive and electro with Groovy Cuvy, DJ Fuuze



PREVUE / WED, SEP 19 (8 PM) / THE DEEP DARK WOODS / BLACK DOG, FREE

It didn't take me very long to come up with a whole bunch of sexy jokes using the words "deep," "dark" and "woods," but it would be wrong of me to subject you to them.

BOOTS Retro Disco: retro dance

BUDDY'S We made 'em famous! DJ Eddy Toonflash, come early to avoid lineup, no cover before 10pm

DELUXE BURGER BAR [illegible] and '70s progressive rock, disco, and electronic Indie with Joel Reboh

EMPIRE BALLROOM Rock, hip hop, house, mash up; no minors

ESMERALDA'S DJ Jimmy Friday; 8pm (door)

FEVER Global Fridays: R&B, hip hop, reggae, reggaeton and mash-up

FLUID LOUNGE Steve Aoki

FUNKY BUDDHA (WHYTE AVE) Top tracks, rock, retro with DJ [illegible]

NEW CITY SUPERBAS [illegible] Bitch! Fridays: electro, indie, alternative, techno with DJs Dervish, Plan B, guests; no minors; 9pm (door); $5

NEW CITY Friday Night Freek Out rockandroll/punkrock/abitofeverything/indy with DJs Jebus and Anarchy Adam (from CJSR's Your Weekly AA Meeting); G-Whiz

OVERTIME BOWLER AND TAP-ROOM SOUTH Retro to New: classic rock, R&B, urban and dance with DJ Mikee; 9pm-2am; no cover

RED STAR Loaded Friday: indie rock and Brit pop with DJ Readymade Flyboy

THE ROOST Fridays All Request [illegible] rotating shows every week [illegible] ber)/$6 (non-member)

ROUGE LOUNGE NYC Night [illegible] Reggeaton-Urban-Old S[illegible] Spice

SAPPHIRE RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE Deep House with [illegible] resident DJ Luke Morrison

SPORTSWORLD INLINE AND ROLLER SKATING DISCO [illegible] request with a mix of retro [illegible] 7pm-12midnight

STOLLI'S Top 40, R&B [illegible] People's DJ

STONEHOUSE PUB Top 4[illegible] Tysin

TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS Flashback: house/hard with [illegible] Dangerous, Andy Inertia [illegible] 7am

URBAN FRAT Funktion Friday [illegible]

WEBSTER [illegible] Girls, DJ Avinder and D[illegible]

Y AFTERHOURS Found [illegible] Tom Stephan

SAT LIVE MUSIC

AMISKITUNE MUSIC FESTIVAL Jimmy and Holly, Patsy, Brian [illegible] Moses, Back Porch [illegible] Myrols; Tressel Town [illegible] available by phone 429-36[illegible]

ATLANTIC TRAP AND GRILL [illegible] Robison

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE [illegible] the Dog: Dan Mangan [illegible] cover acoustic every Saturday at [illegible]

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ We [illegible] play DJ–Member Appre[illegible] Bring your favourite records/ipod/CDs, 8pm

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ [illegible] 8pm; $11

CASTLE ROCK-ST. ALBERT Saturday showcase open [illegible] ed by Carmen Cook, Simon Br[illegible]

IVORY CASINO

METROPOLITAN MUSIC

ROYAL PLACE

MURRAY-KEYANO

REBS ROOMS

SOUL SHACK

IVORY CLUB

PUB

CAFÉ

JEKYLL AND HYDE PUB

JULIAN'S PIANO BAR–CHATEAU LOUIS

MARGARITA'S BAR AND GRILL

O'BYRNE'S

ON THE ROCKS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB

QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY HALL Northern ... and, $18 at TIX on the Square,

Master, Blackbyrd, Freecloud,

TEDDY'S PALACE

TOUCH OF CLASS LOUNGE

URBAN LOUNGE Connors Road

VELVET UNDERGROUND The

WILD WEST SALOON

WINSPEAR CENTRE

WINSPEAR CENTRE

WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE

CLASSICAL

CONVOCATION HALL University ... (piano), 8pm, $

DJS

BACKROOM VODKA BAR ... top 40 with DJ

... DJ Fuego, and DJ Jose

BLACKDOG FREEHOUSE

BURGER BAR

BALLROOM

LOUNGE

(WHYTE AVE)

Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, and

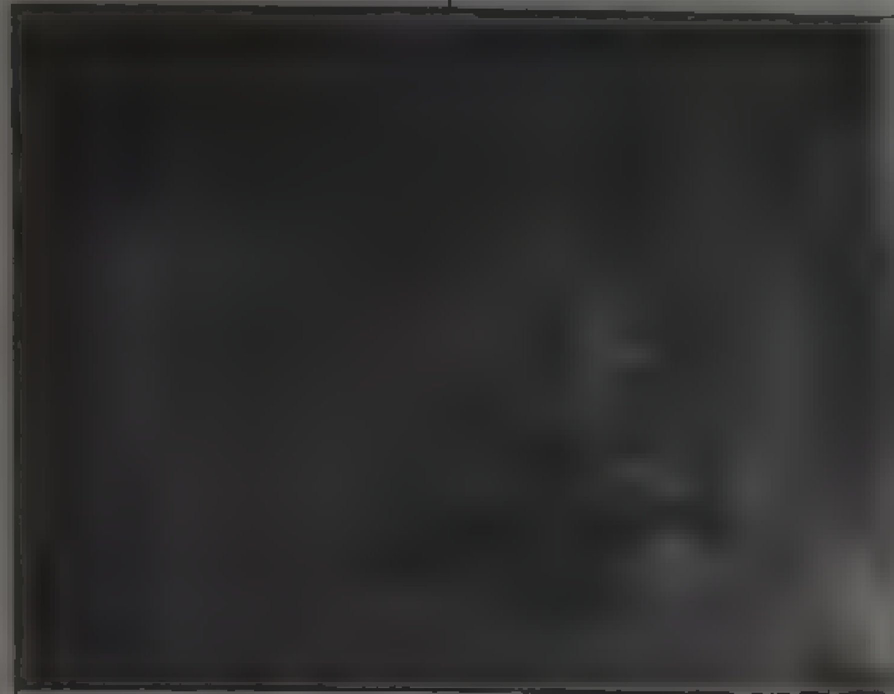
LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Sizzle Saturday DJ Groovy Cuvy and guests

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Saturdays real alternative classics punk with DJ Nazz Nomad; no cover

alternate weeks: 9-12

ROYAL COACH DINING ROOM–CHATEAU LOUIS Polijin (classical guitar)

STARLITE ROOM K-OS, Kill The Lights; 8pm (door), $29.50 at TicketMaster



PREVUE / THU, SEP 13 (7 PM) / MUTE MATH / DINWOODIE LOUNGE, $14.50 (ALL AGES)
I can't think of a joke here, so here's a list of hilarious sex acts: the Cleveland Steamer, Donkey Punch, Screaming Seagull, the Window, Dirty Sanchez, Rusty Trombone, Mustard Jar, the Winnipeg Whistler, Raspberry Beret, and the Dave Berry.

NEW CITY SUBURBS Saturday Sucks electro industrial, alt and indy, electro, rock with DJs Nik Rofeelya and Blue Jay (Mod Club), $5

PLANET INDIGO–JASPER AVENUE Suggestive Saturdays: breaks electro house with PI residents

RED STAR Indie rock, hip hop, rock, indie rock, with S Master F, Loopin' the 3rd

THE ROOST Saturdays–Always like New Years Eve: with DJ Dan (Retro) downstairs and DJ Jazzy (New Music) upstairs, $4 (member)/$6 (non-member)

SPORTSWORLD ROLLERSKATING DISCO Sportsworld Inline and Roller Skating Disco: Top 40 request with a mix of retro and disco: 1-5pm and 7pm-12 midnight

STOLLI'S ON WHYTE Top 40, R&B, house with People's DJ

TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS Anthem: hard NRG/trance/funky with Jeff Hillis, DTDR, Big Daddy STX, Tweek, 1am-8am

WUNDERBAR ... local bands

Y AFTERHOURS ... lady) at Foosh, Treehouse, Tess Hair, Y Afterhours

SUN
LIVE MUSIC

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ Sunday Brunch: Jim Findlay and friends, 11am (music)

CENTURY CASINO Jay and The Americans, $25 at TicketMaster

CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB Sunday jam, 7pm

DUSTERS PUB Sunday open stage hosted by the Mary Thomas Band

EDDIE SHORTS Sunday open stage with Rob Taylor, 4-8pm

HULBERT'S Sunday night mic with Rhea March; 7-10pm

JAMMERS PUB

JUBILEE AUDITORIUM ... Garfunkel, 7:30pm, tickets available

NEWCASTLE PUB ... jam hosted by Wily and Dave,

O'BYRNE'S ... open stage for all, 9:30pm, no cover

ON THE ROCKS Granny Dynamite

OSCARS PUB Open stage Sundays hosted by Chris Wynters of Captain Tractor; 8-11pm

RITCHIE UNITED CHURCH Jazz

RIVERSIDE BAR AND GRILL The Red Ants (jazzy R&B) every Sunday 7-11pm

ROSEBOWL Sunday open stage featuring the Digs/Mike McDonald

WINSPEAR CENTRE Winspear Centre 10th anniversary weekend Ian Tyson, 8pm; $45 (adult)/$38 (student/senior) at Winspear box office

WINSPEAR CENTRE Winspear Centre tenth anniversary weekend Mavis Staples; 3pm, $45 (adult)/$38 (student/senior) at Winspear box office

CLASSICAL

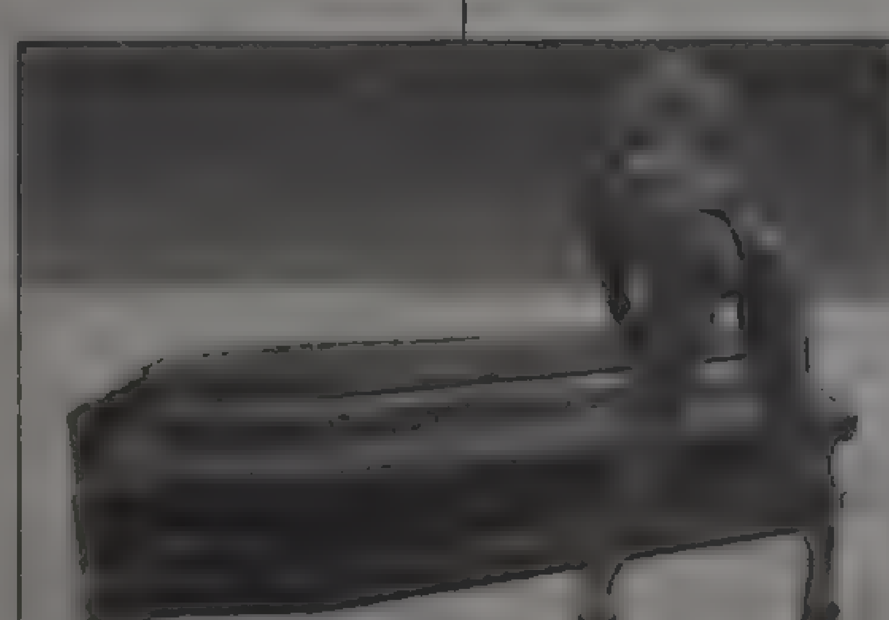
CONVOCATION HALL ... Drawing Room: Salon Orchestra MaVirginie Gagné (violin), Charles Pilon (viola), John Mahon (clarinet) Russell Whitehead (cornet), Kathryn Macintosh (trombone), Scott Whetham (tuba), Jeremy Spurgeon (piano), Brian Thurgood (percussion), 3pm, $20 (adult)/$15 (senior)/$10 (student)

DJS

BACKSTAGE TAP AND GRILL Industry Night: with Atomic Improv, Jameoki and DJ Tim

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE ... Give It Up Sunday Afternoons: Main Floor: Funk, soul, Motown, disco with DJ Red Dawn

BUDDY'S NIGHTCLUB Rotating drag shows: DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy



PREVUE / SAT, SEP 15 (7:30 PM) / COUNTRY JOE MCDONALD / FESTIVAL PLACE, $28-32
Again, I'm not even going to begin telling you how I perverted the lyric "Be the first one on your block to have your boy come home in a box."

EMPIRE BALLROOM ... hop house mash up

GINGUR SKY Urban Ladies Night Sundays: with DJs InVinceable,

O'BYRNE'S DJ Finnegan, 9pm (door), $20 (basic)/$30 (premium), available by phone at 414 6766

ON THE ROCKS Granny Dynamite

OVERTIME GRILLER ... Industry Night: Requests with DJ Bo

URBAN LOUNGE Sunday Night Live: hosted by DA Choclit Elviz, DJ Sweetz 9pm; the best of Urban's live entertainment 10pm

WUNDERBAR ... Gallatea and XS, guests, no cover

MON
LIVE MUSIC

IVORY CLUB Open mic Mondays music and comedy; 8pm

L.B.'S PUB House band, 9:30pm-1am; no cover

NEW YORK BAGEL CAFÉ Marco Claveria (samba to bolero) every Monday

PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL Acoustic instrumental old time fiddle jam hosted by the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Society 7pm

TAPHOUSE Monday Live. with Big Tickle, 8:30-11:30pm, no cover

DJS

BAR WILD Bar Gone Wild Mondays: Service Industry Night, no minors, 9pm-2am

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE ... Floor: Eclectic Nonsense with Confederacy of Dunces Dad Rock TJ Hookah and Rear Admiral Saunders

BUDDY'S Amateur Strip Contest with Mia Fellow, DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy

RICKY McKASTY'S ... Mondays: with DJ S.W.A.G

FLUID LOUNGE Mondays Mixer

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Munch on Metal Mondays: '80s metal with DJ Sammi Kerr; no minors, no cover

O'BYRNE'S Best local musical talent with DJ Angus

TUE
LIVE MUSIC

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ Open stage, music and literature hosted by Liam Trimble from Illfit Outfit and Roy Gary Brv; 6pm

CASTLE ROCK PUB ... Freeway Jam: Hosted by Mark Ammar, Noel Mackenzie, and Dale Collins; 8:30pm-1am

FRUIT (JASPER AVENUE) ... stage with Chris Wynters

LEGENDS PUB Tuesday Open jam hosted by Gary Thomas

O'BYRNE'S Celtic Jam: with Shannon Johnson and friends, 9:30pm

VELVET UNDERGROUND ... McNeill, guests, no minors, 8pm, $12 at TicketMaster

WINSPEAR CENTRE ... Centre 10th anniversary weekend Meyer and Marshall, 8pm, $45 (adult)/$38 (student/senior) at Winspear box office

DJS

BUDDY'S Free pool and tourney, DJ Arrowchaser

ESMERALDA'S Top 40, country, R&B with DJ Foreplay, DJ Jimmy

FUNKY BUDDHA (WHYTE AVE) Latin and Salsa music, dance lessons 8-10pm

GINGUR SKY Bashment Tuesdays: Reggae music; no cover

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE The In Kraut: Mod R&B, Northern Soul, '60s Garage, Mod Revival with Dr Erick and guests

SAPPHIRE RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE Tapas Tuesday: popular house beats with DJ Kevin Wong

SPORTSWORLD INLINE AND AND ROLLER SKATING DISCO Top 40 request with a mix of retro and disco, 7pm-12 midnight

VELVET UNDERGROUND Tuesday Night Shakedowns: with DJ Generic (hipster twister) and guests; 8pm (door); no cover

WUNDERBAR Sweet Brit and Punk with Phillip and Bogner

WED
LIVE MUSIC

BLACKDOG FREEHOUSE Glitter Gulch Wednesdays: roots music with DJ Buster Friendly; no cover live music once a month, The Deep Dark Woods

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ Dialogue Wednesday: Live hip-hop featuring Mikey Maybe, the Joe recording his live album *light* with performances by Well Put, Jonek, and Mikey Maybe, 9pm, $10

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ Story Slam

EDDIE SHORTS Mary Thomas Band featuring Brian Patch on guitar

FIDDLER'S ROOST Little Flower open stage, 7:30pm (door); $2

HOOLIGANZ PUB Open stage Wednesdays hosted by Rock 'n' Roll Kenny

LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Open mic

O'BYRNE'S Chris Wynters and guests, 9:30pm, no cover

PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL Acoustic Bluegrass jam presented by the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society every Wednesday evening

RIVERSIDE BAR AND GRILL Wednesday Night Live: Open stage for comedians, musicians and bands; hosted by Barbara May; 7pm (set-up), 8:30-10:30pm (show)

TEDDY'S PALACE Jimmy Whiffen

URBAN LOUNGE Smart Alex, Soul Side In

WILD WEST SALOON ... Parenteau

DJS

BACKROOM VODKA BAR ... Wednesdays: Soulful Deep House with Nic-E and Smoov

BLACKDOG FREEHOUSE Glitter Gulch Wednesdays: roots music with DJ Buster Friendly; no cover, live music once a month, Wooftop RetroActive Radio with LL Cool Joe, alternative '80s and '90s, post punk, new wave, garage, Brit, mod, rock and roll

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ Dialogue Wednesday

BUDDY'S Hump day with DJ Sexxy Sean

FEVER NIGHTCLUB ... Wednesdays

FLUID LOUNGE Wednesday Rock This

THE FOX Wind-up Wednesdays R&B, hiphop, reggae, old skool, reggaeton with InVinceable, Touch It, weekly guest DJs

LEGENDS PUB Hip hop/R&B with DJ Spincycle

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE ... Out With Your Box Out Wednesday Night, no minors, no cover

RED STAR Funk 'n' Soul: funk, soul, disco, nu jazz, reggae, hip hop with Cool Curt, Yuri, Junior Brown,

STANDARD Wednesday Gone Wild Feat. with DJ Nestor Delano

STOLLI'S Wild Cherry House/garage with Tripswitch, Rezidnt Funk, fusion with Steve Velocity

VELVET UNDERGROUND ... Every Wednesday with the JBOTS, indie mod rock dance party; 8pm (door)

WUNDERBAR Wednesdays with new DJ, no cover

Y AFTERHOURS Y Not Wednesday: Big Daddy

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New City 10th Anniversary Week
MAD HOMBRE SOCIETY
SUBHUMANS CANADA
CHRIS MURRAY
OCTOBER 4th
Tix Go On Sale Sept. 1st
$20 ADV/$25 DOOR
No Minors
VUE WEEKLY
NEW CITY

Thursday September 13th
NIKKI STRICK
ALL ELSE FAILS
SKULL DEVICE
LA BELLA VENDETTA
DOORS
$9.00
AT DOOR
NO MINORS
VUE WEEKLY
NEW CITY

Thursday
Sept 20th
80s
Party
NO COVER
NO MINORS
TONS OF GREAT 80s PRIZES!!!
80s CANDY AVAILABLE
NEW CITY

New City 10th Anniversary Week
TOTAL CHAOS
(Los Angeles, California)
THE SOLEX CHEMX
(Formerly The Brewhouse)
BALLS OUT FACE FIRST
THE UNITRUSS
$10 DOOR
SUNDAY SEPT 30
DOORS 8:30 pm
NO MINORS
NEW CITY
VUE WEEKLY

VIVIVATION
SOLVENT AND STARVE KIDS
ALL AGES LICENSED
NEW CITY

ROCK OF NATIONS
Tour 2007
NEBULA
(Los Angeles)
BREAST
VUE WEEKLY
NEW CITY

BRIDE OF BINGO
NO COVER
NEW CITY

New City Would Like To Say
For TEN YEARS and Here
TO THE NEXT TEN!!!
NEW CITY
NEW CITY
NEW CITY

Thursday October 25th
THE RAVEONETTES
WITH
hot panda
AND GUEST TBA
No Minors
Tix Go On Sale September 1st
VUE WEEKLY
www.newcitycompound.com
NEW CITY

OCTOBER 11th VUE WEEKLY
UK SUBS
ABIRATO
TROMA LISA

Tom Savage will *Never Shed No Tears*

LEWIS KELLY / lewis@vueweekly.com

When Tom Savage leads the appropriately named **Tom Savage Trio** to its Edmonton debut at O'Byrne's Irish Pub, don't be surprised if the group's eponymous leader is compared to a famous male singer-songwriter at some point during the show. Over the years, he's heard more or less every comparison possible—Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, Neil Young, Steve Earle, Fred Eaglesmith and even Bruce Springsteen. Especially Bruce Springsteen.

"I get Bruce Springsteen a lot, especially for *Never Shed No Tears* [the group's latest record]," explains Savage. "I get a lot of that comparison live. I never listened to Bruce Springsteen."

But, the constant suggestions that he sounds like the Boss eventually drove Savage to seek out Springsteen.

"It's funny, people compare me to something and then I'll go check that out," says Savage. "It's opened me up to a lot of music I'd never heard before."

PREVUE

MON, SEP 17 (9 PM)
TOM SAVAGE TRIO
O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB, FREE

Fans of Savage may be a little curious regarding which songs he'll choose to play. With multiple full albums of remarkable musical versatility to draw from, Savage has quite the selection process to go through, admitting that he'll be drawing from all three of his releases when he arrives in town

PERHAPS MORE CHALLENGING than choosing the songs is choosing how to play them. With Sandy MacKenzie on drums and Geoff Chown on bass, the trio is still, well, a trio. As such, replicating the involved sound of Savage's studio work in front of a live audience is not an exact science

"It'll just be different versions of the songs, I guess," explains Savage "We're three people; we're not bringing samples of the string section."

This doesn't phase him, however.

"Most of the songs, I think they work with just me playing them solo, they work with whatever instrumentation you put on 'em," says Savage. "I think that's the test of a good song."

Looking at Savage's lyrics, you might surmise that he also thinks a good song should have something significant to say—some of the tracks on *Never Shed No Tears*, such as "The State We're In," have fairly strong political overtones.

"I don't intend to get too political, but...' I don't really shy away from heavier subjects, even if they're on a personal level," he explains "I'm definitely not writing the happiest songs in the world. You're trying to figure stuff out in your own mind when you're writing a song." ▼

MAVIS STAPLES
Sept 16 Arnold Wilmott Centre for Music

"This generation today and the people from my generation, they need to hear this. With these songs I'm trying to send a message that we have to keep on. We have to remember what we've been through."
-Mavis

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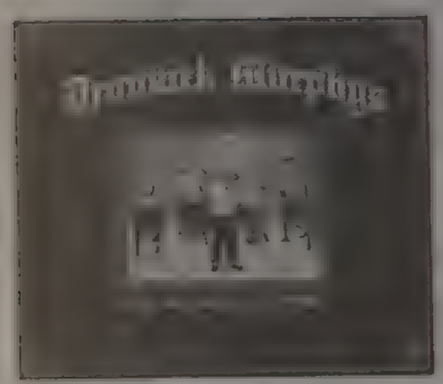

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LIVE NATION

Two Hours Traffic's *Little Jabs* make big noise

MARY CHRISTA O'KEEFE / marychrista@vueweekly.com

F[illegible] home, a congenial Alec O'Hanley is tucked in a corner of [illegible] Toronto based label [illegible] the **Two Hours Traffic** gui[illegible] like a kid who slipped out [illegible] there's good reason.

"You just got me out of a big long meeting about grants, SoundScan sheets, road costs—all that stuff that sucks but is necessary," he sighs. "But I shouldn't complain. It's better than sitting in a cubicle or something. I mean, it's great to do this—travelling around, getting your food paid for, recording—it must be up there with one of the most rewarding experiences. Seeing the crowd response; seeing them go ballistic over something you toiled over alone in your bedroom—that's pretty neat."

O'Hanley and his bandmates are at the forefront of an emerging college rock revival. The east coast seems to favour the genre, having sustained it well into the '90s with solid, slightly arty power pop coming out of post-secondary havens like Halifax. Although Two Hours Traffic shares that stretch of oceanfront and officially came together in university—O'Hanley played with vocalist/guitarist Liam Corcoran in high school—the band comes from a smaller, less developed scene.

"There wasn't much in PEI when we started, but the community's coming along," O'Hanley explains. "There are many good bands now that'll break out in a year or two, like Smothered in Hugs—my favourite now. We even started a label—well, more like a collective—called Collagen Rock. Charlottetown did have one big band in the '80s, though: Haywire."

A moment of silence.

"'Black and Blue'?" he adds helpfully. No recognition sparked, he concludes, "Maybe it was an east coast thing."

PREVUE

SAT, SEPT 15 (8 PM)
TWO HOURS TRAFFIC
WITH THE DUDES, TEAM CAPTAIN
STARLITE ROOM, $12 ADVANCE, $15 AT DOOR

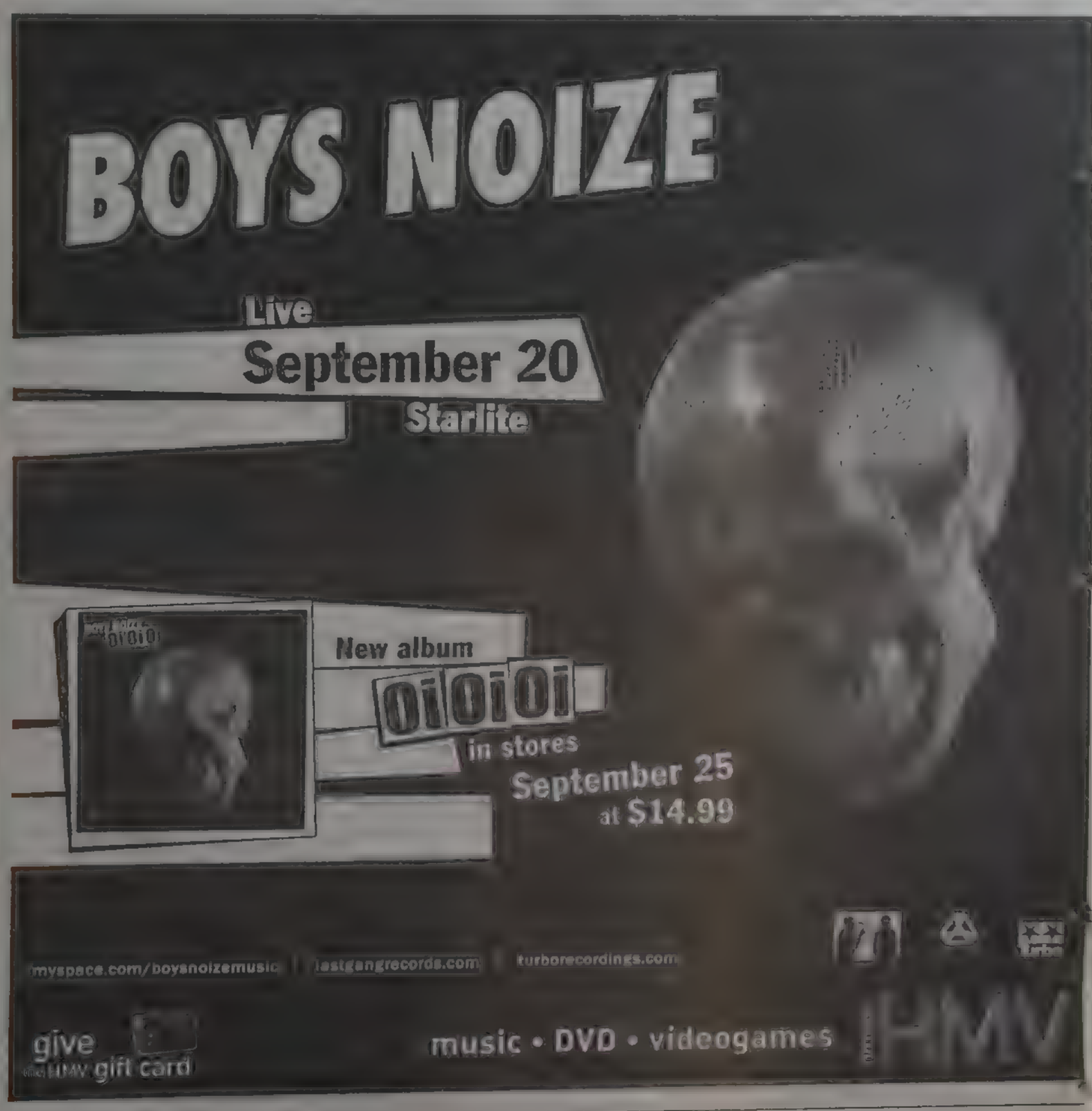
TWO HOURS TRAFFIC hopefully won't share the fate of its hair band of brothers. Technology shifted the music business to a point where even populist outfits start out indie these days, building a network of support beyond their home region through online word-of-mouth before putting in touring time to win additional hearts and ears. Having conquered its part of the world—netting East Coast Award nominations and filling decent-sized venues—Two Hours Traffic is heading westward.

"We should've made it out to see you earlier," O'Hanley apologizes. "We want to play for you prairie people."

They can be forgiven—it's been a busy five years since Corcoran and O'Hanley picked up drummer Derek Ellis and bassist Andrew MacDonald. After handing the first EP, *April Storm*, to Haligonian former college rocker Joel Plaskett at a show, he became the band's champion and producer, helming 2005's self-titled full-length, last year's *Isolator* EP and the recent *Little Jabs*.

"The title is meant to be about that point in a relationship where you're more and more curt with one another," he says of this latest release. "And in song, it's meant to be little blasts—jabs—in these three-minute pop songs."

Halifax songwriter Al Tuck offered his own characteristically absurdist, affectionate poke after seeing the group's sweat-drenched show. O'Hanley laughs, "Al said, 'You guys will go really far—you're all the same height.'" ▼



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You need Grace to be a rock star

BRYAN GETTLES / bryan@vueweekly.com

For Toronto's **Three Days Grace**, [illegible] to the top of Canada's rock scene was anything but [illegible]. After the release of its self-titled first album in 2003, the band found itself in a position the members had always hoped for, but never really expected—intensely popular. This popularity led to a platinum record, videos on MuchMusic and MTV, tons of radio play and nearly endless touring.

"The first record we toured for well over two years, and it was our first real tour experience," says bassist Brad Walst. "The road's a tough place. There are people all around you all the time, but in the end you're pretty much alone."

Each band member dealt with the challenges that touring brought in different ways, but for singer Adam Gontier those challenges were nearly too much to bear. By the end of the tour, Gontier had to check himself into Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to deal with an Oxycontin addiction he had developed. According to Walst, however, it was the lack of communication between the members of the band that was the worst part of the pressure they were facing.

"Some of us got carried away and by the end of it a lot of our communication had broken down—it was a hard time for that," he says, before recounting how he was able to bring himself back to earth after so much success. "I took about two or three months off and visited with family and friends and tried to get back to reality."

PREVUE

SAT, SEP 15 (2 PM)
THREE DAYS GRACE
WITH ITALIAN EDITION, ILLSCARLETT, STATE OF SHOCK, MARIANAS TRENCH, DANKO JONES, HEDLEY, SOCIAL CODE, TUPELO HONEY
SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE, SOLD OUT

BUT JUST BECAUSE THEIR job has its challenges the members of Three Days Grace aren't a bunch of whiners—just the opposite really. For Walst and the rest of the band, they live through the challenges of being in a band for the huge rewards it also provides.

"I think it's the best job in the world," says Walst. "The reason we do it is for the half hour we get to play for people. It's the other things that happen to you that get you down." v

HER HAIR ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT'S GROWN

Here's your chance to experience the evolution of a true original. *Canon*, the first-ever retrospective of Ani DiFranco's illustrious career, takes listeners from the confessional folk of her early days to the foundation-shaking poetry of 2006's *Reprieve*, touching on all the funky forays in between.

THIS WEEKEND!

K-OS

WITH KILL THE LIGHTS

BAZAAR DISCO TOUR 07

SEPTEMBER 16
STARLITE ROOM
DOORS 8 PM — 18+ ID REQUIRED
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october 30
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SEPTEMBER 22 2007

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VUE WEEKLY · CJSR

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ALL THAT REMAINS

The Acacia Strain

The Red

Darkest Hour

SEPTEMBER 24 • STARLITE ROOM

DOORS 6 PM • ALL AGES • TICKETS ALSO AT MEGATUNES

BLACKBYRD, FREECLOUD, FS (WEM)

PRIVATE CLUB - MEMBERS & GUESTS

VUE WEEKLY · CJSR

SKA PIONEERS FROM NYC!

The Toasters

Saint Alvia Cartel

Flatliners

Peacocks

SEPTEMBER 25

STARLITE ROOM

DOORS 8 PM - 18+ NO MINORS

TICKETS ALSO AT MEGATUNES, BLACKBYRD AND FREECLOUD

VUE WEEKLY

BOYS NIGHT OUT

SEPTEMBER 27

STARLITE ROOM

DOORS 7 PM - ALL AGES

TICKETS ALSO AT MEGATUNES

BLACKBYRD, FS (WEM)

VUE WEEKLY · CJSR

SUPERSUCKERS

with THE BLACK HALOS

FRIDAY SEPT. 28

STARLITE ROOM

CJSR

BUILT TO SPILL

with ATTACK IN BLACK

SEPTEMBER 29

STARLITE ROOM

DOORS 8 PM · STARTED AT 10 HOURS

TICKETS ALSO AT MEGATUNES

BLACKBYRD & FASTEST

CJSR · VUE

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with guests

October 4

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ARCH ENEMY

WITH GUESTS

OCTOBER 16

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DOORS 7 PM - ALL AGES

TICKETS ALSO AT MEGATUNES,

BLACKBYRD, FS (WEM)

VUE WEEKLY

Sunset Rubdown

WITH GUESTS

OCTOBER 23

STARLITE ROOM

The Locust

Child Abuse

November 6

Avenue Skatepark

Doors 7 pm · All Ages

Tickets also at Megatunes · Blackbyrd · FS (WEM)

VUE · CJSR

JUST ANNOUNCED - ON SALE SATURDAY

chimaira

KATAKLYSM

TERROR

DIVINE HERESY

NOVEMBER 24

DINWOODIE LOUNGE

DOORS 7 PM - ALL AGES - TICKETS ALSO AT MEGATUNES, BLACKBYRD, FS (WEM)

CJSR · VUE WEEKLY

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GRIM SKUNK
MERVYN ALBIN / FIRST AID KIT
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15 ROGANTE MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS
THE DUDES WITH TWO HOURS TRAFFIC & TEAM CANADA
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16
K-OS WITH KILL THE LIGHTS
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20 CBC RADIO 3 PRESENTS
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WITH BEND SINISTER & THE CLIPS
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21
THE PLAIN DEALERS
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SEASON OF NIGHTMARES / THE BENDERS
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THE DOERS
NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND / FORD PIER
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22 PAPERWORKS MUSIC PRESENTS CD RELEASE
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LADYHAWK
SECRET FIRES & THIS CIVIL TWILIGHT
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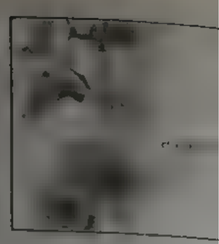
ALBUM REVIEWS

NEW SOUNDS



FUNKI PORCINI
HED PHONE SEX
NINJA TUNE

CAROLYN NIKOOYM / carolyn@vueweekly.com

When I first came across *Hed Phone Sex*, I couldn't help but think of that sex scene with Rob Lowe and Demi Moore in the '80s film *About Last Night ...* Lowe's character has picked Moore's up at the local pub and they are back at his place. Foreplay consists of them, each with giant headphones on, listening to Jermaine Jackson's "Words Into Action." But after sliding the CD into my beau's stereo—where it fit perfectly, like CD and player were soul mates—I had to put Rob Lowe's gorgeous (but cheesy) mug out of my mind. Funki Porcini (aka James Braddell) was sensually requesting my attention. I didn't think that I'd ever heard a more apt album title

The double CD (it also comes in single CD form), massages you with a two-hour romp of laid-back grooves that urges, prods and teases you back into bed with your lover, more than willing to cancel out on the party of the season. Funki Porcini tempts the cliché by using porn and porn-music samples in the mix of down-tempo drum 'n' bass, '90s trip-hop and breaks, but his subtlety underscores playfulness and humour—the perfect traits for a bed buddy.

KATE BUSH
HOUNDS OF LOVE
EMI

DAVID BERRY / david@vueweekly.com

First time you and that special someone are doing the dirty deed? Put *Hounds of Love* on now and thank me later. For starters, the fact that waifish vulnerability is the closest thing we have to a transcendental turn-on virtually guarantees that whoever you're sleeping with, regardless of sex or sexual preference, will have had a crush on Ms Bush at some point, or at least will by the time the album is over, getting you some serious potential-mate points.

As for the music, the first half is all smoldering sexuality, a splendid blend of dance ("The Big Sky") and melancholy ("Running Up That Hill") that suggests both "I'm going to fuck you straight through this mattress" and "Please hold me when we're done." The back half, about a drowning girl, seems antithetical to the purpose, but we're assuming here that first-time jitters keeps things a fair bit below the album's 47-minute running time, giving you plenty of time for sensitive pillow talk—though hopefully the bounce of "Jig of Life" will remind you that you've still got a few tricks up your thighs.

DIETZCHE V AND THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
MACHO: 2003-2007
POP ECHO

BRYAN BIRTLES / bryan@vueweekly.com

Dietzche V and the Abominable Snowman's new "greatest hits" album, *Macho: 2003-2007*, is going to be the one that will get you through the upcoming long winter. With its fat bass, big beats and the sexiest synth lines this side of Gomorrah, DVAS is going to put you in the mood for the kind of thing that makes the cold bearable. And I'm not talking about Shredded Wheat with hot milk and brown sugar either.

I'm talking about fucking. There, said it. DVAS's *Macho* isn't the kind o album you spread rose petals on the bed, light some candles and make *love* to—it's for fucking. It's for biting scratching, licking, slapping, pouring hot wax on your partner's chest, inviting a couple of friends to join, letting her do a line off your balls, wearing a chin dildo and not being able to go to work in the morning because you're kinda walking funny and you don't want to explain why.

So it's not exactly a Barry White record, but trust me, it'll do. Oh ye it'll do.

ETTA JAMES
LOVE SONGS
MCA

MARY CHRISTA O'KEEFE / marychrista@vueweekly.com

Only a certain kind o woman can call a man "daddy" without getting a creepy about it. Or "boy," fo that matter. When pioneering R&B songstress Etta James tossed those endearments into songs, they denote her position in relation to her man whether she approached, eyes lowered as a trembling submissive ("daddy"), o locked onto his as a fearless, predacious top ("boy"). Songs of (sexual) innocence and songs of (sexual) experience, if you will.

But beyond veiled references and double entendres ("I only ask for the chance to know the meaning of the word 'surrender'"), the career-spanning classics that make up the compilation *Love Songs* are wildly romantic ditties that can barely be understood in the waning light of the contemporary post-*Rules*, post-*Girls Gone Wi*

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v/a mike taylor remembered LP

polarization of female sexuality.

James, who'll be 70 in January, is what used to be known as a "belter." Occasionally she teeters on a phrase in a broken whisper, but her voice is at its best billowing out like a sail behind the horns, buoyed along by the soul-stroll puh-puh-puh of the piano, swooning strings and languid rhythmic shuffle. At the dawn of R&B—the contemporaneous city cousin of early rock 'n' roll—James's dark skin, platinum blonde bouffant and sparkly gowns were the furthest thing from kitsch. Her music is likewise authentic, the emotion [illegible] in torch and spark, this is a catalogue of longing. What could be more intimate?

THE PIXIES
DOOLITTLE
4AD

DAVID BERRY / david@vueweekly.com

If it looks as though you're going to be spending the next 35 minutes of your life sweating through some thoroughly unsatisfying sex, do yourself a favour and pop in The Pixies' classic to get yourself through the, [illegible]

Nothing gets out the frustration of not being able to finish watching your rented copy of *Zodiac* like the opening screech of "Debaser," but that's just one of the litany of disappointing sexual situations *Doolittle* can take care of. Are you a guy with stamina troubles? Skip to "There Goes My Gun" and laugh it off (or, if you're feeling a little more romantic, try "Here Comes Your Man"). Are you a woman trying to fend off unwanted advances with a half-hearted handjob? "I Bleed" is subtle and effective.

Want to try to rekindle the flame after another disappointing session? See if "La La Love You" gets your mind off the cute barista. Want to finally end it all? Try "Hey" or "Gouge Away," depending on how fighty you're feeling. And if none of those situations come up, at least Dave Lovering keeps a solid beat, and both Frank Black and Kim Deal are decent fantasy fucks. (Double Bagger)

Parental advisory: explicit content

MUSIC | ENTER SANDOR
STEVEN SANDOR
steven@vueweekly.com

I sure as hell have a lot of pretty nasty sex songs in my CD and vinyl collection. From Peaches's "Fuck the Pain Away" to Liz Phair's "Flower," hip-hop misogyny to heavy metal misogyny, there are plenty of records on the Sandor family shelves that would certainly raise a few eyebrows.

And a lot of those albums came with those black and white "Parental Advisory" stickers or labels right on the front. For more than two decades the record industry has voluntarily slapped these labels on any albums considered racy, provocative or which are just filled with lots of cuss words.

But it's really quite amusing to read just how the Canadian Recording Industry Association expects retailers to treat the items that have stickers on them.

"In instances where the artist and the record company agree that there is musical and artistic credibility in the work even when the lyrics are too explicit for mainstream distribution, the industry's 'Parental Advisory' label is applied prominently to the outside of the permanent packaging," reads CRIA's guidelines. "All product identified in this way is also brought to the attention of retailers in the distribution process and most Canadian retailers offer yet a 'second layer' of checks and balances to support the labeling system in-store, having staff keep watch on who is purchasing these products and asking for age-proof ID when necessary."

Okay, raise your hand if you have ever seen a clerk at a record shop card a teenager, or downright refuse to sell a record to a minor. And what about online sites?

On iTunes, versions of song are labeled if they are "clean" or "explicit," but there's no way that a site can truly test to see if the user is over 18 or not.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) also pays the topic of explicit music the same kind of lip service as CRIA.

"The RIAA does not represent the record retailers, but works closely with the National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM), the Digital Media Association (DiMA), the wireless industry and leading technology companies on this issue (of labeling)," reads RIAA's policy sheet. "A good number of traditional retailers have in-store policies prohibiting the sale of records displaying the PAL (parental advisory label) logo to those younger than 18, and many online retailers now are implementing parental control mechanisms. In addition, some retail outlets choose not to stock PAL-labeled product if they believe such a policy would best serve their own communities."

Let's face it. The advisory sticker is a badge of honour to many artists. Reading the regulations on how record stores are supposed to treat labelled albums is like going into old city bylaws and finding out there is still legislation on the books about how horses are supposed to be tied to posts or how livestock is to be driven through city streets: worth a chuckle, but totally and utterly meaningless. ▼

HAIKU! | QUICK SPINS
WHITEY AND T9 PLAYER
quickspins@vueweekly.com

PINK MOUNTAINTOPS
PINK MOUNTAINTOPS
SCRATCH
Beardy hippies made
Great disc, but, as sexy as
Fucking at the dump

SIGUE SIGUE SPUTNIK
FLAUNT IT
CLEOPATRA
My virginity
Lost, in comical fashion*
While this shitloaf played

2 LIVE CREW
AS NASTY AS THEY WANNA BE
LUKE
The archetype for
Dirty novelty rap that
Sticks like a wet spot

SONGS ABOUT FUCKING
BIG BLACK
TOUCH & GO
Not about fucking
But it still gently tickles
Yer earhole, jail style

**No jokin', about 45 seconds of "Love Missile F1-11"*

BLOOD SUGAR SEX MAGIK
RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
WARNER
Holds the record for
Most euphemisms used for
The word "vagina"

SPINAL TAP
SMELL THE GLOVE
POLYDOR
The sweet, sexy sound
Of "Sex Farm Woman" will melt
Any woman's heart

JAMES BROWN
SEX MACHINE
KING
It's James-fucking-Brown!
He oozed sex from every pore,
As well as cocaine

BARRY WHITE
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LOVE
PRIME CUTS
Deeper, sexier
Than James Earl Jones duct taped to
Five Morgan Freemans

AC/DC
THEIR ENORMOUS CANON ... ER ...
EVERY ALBUM
They basically wrote
Two songs: one about rocking
One about fucking

ZODIAC | FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BRESSLY

[illegible]

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19)
Metaphorically speaking, I foresee glacier ice melting and molten rock flowing in your immediate future, Aries. I expect that hard solids will become fluid; permanent fixtures will be in flux. This is a good thing, believe me. Though it may unnerve you at first, you will have the power to change things you never thought could be changed in a hundred years. You will have the freedom to create new vessels for energy that has outgrown its old vessels.

TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20)
Here's the problem as I see it: you're not feeling sufficiently confident to trust your unique insights, and so you haven't dared to communicate them. But it's crucial that you do speak up. Even though you may not be as knowledgeable about the big picture as other people are, you possess a missing piece of the puzzle that they've got to have. You may even be an outsider or a latecomer with relatively little credibility in the eyes of those in the inner circle, but still: You know something they don't know and need to know.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20)
"I wish I had a holy grail to quest for, even if it was really small," writes my Gemini reader Marta, who describes herself as a "wannabe Prometheus." I have good news for her, as well as for all the rest of you wannabe Prometheans who have been pining for a raison d'etre, a burning desire or a-not-quite-impossible dream to throw yourself into with 110 per cent commitment: look out of the corners of your eyes to spot the strange attractor (also known as the unauthorized magic) that is bobbing ever-so-seductively on the far horizon.

CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22)
According to a report in The Onion, behavioral scientists in Chicago have proved that many people are in fact *not* entitled to their opinions. "On topics from evolution to immigration reform, we found that 38 per cent of the opinions people expressed were so off-base and ill-informed that they actually hurt society by being voiced," said one researcher. I'm betting, however, that only a small proportion of these unfounded beliefs and spurious theories will originate from Cancerians in the coming weeks. Your tribe is likely to be more scrupulous in your data-gathering and more rigorous in your reasoning than the rest of the population. In fact, I suggest you regard yourself as a role model whose job it is to demonstrate the beauty of thinking deeply.

LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22)
Can you feel the moon tugging at the fluids in your body? Usually, you can't. Are you aware of how large-scale cultural influences affect your day-to-day rhythms? Again, that's typically beyond your capacity to sense in any immediate way. But this week, you just might be able to do both of those things. You're more attuned than usual to the subtle currents that are unfolding within you. You're also more alert to the impact that big cosmic energies and long-term historical trends are making on your unconscious mind. I advise you to take maximum advantage of this extra sensitivity. You could discover important clues about how to position yourself to thrive in the face of upcoming social transformations.

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22)
Writing in Salon.com, Scott Rosenberg recalled how in his youth he loved to play the fantasy role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons. "You'd have to choose not one but two 'alignments' for your character," he mused. "Good and evil, of course, but also 'law' and 'chaos.' And among the people I ran with, 'chaotic/good' was the thing to be, because it let you trust other people and still have fun." Your assignment in the coming week, Virgo, is to adopt the "chaotic/good" approach for the character you will be playing in your actual life.

LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22)
Plagued by back problems, my friend Eduardo went to a psychic healer in Brazil. He got his treatment while seated on a chair in a room crowded with other patients. The shaman massaged Eduardo's spine for a few minutes. Suddenly, out of nowhere, streams of black mud appeared all over his back. Was this some sort of stage magic? The healer announced that the mud had been the cause of the pain, and that he had exorcised it from Eduardo's body. My friend rested there a while, musing on the improbable event that had apparently happened, and enjoying a new feeling of ease in his back. His bewilderment at the mystery of his own cure turned to stupefaction when he saw what the shaman pulled from the next patient's belly: an old shoe. Now here's an odd coincidence, Libra: one of the best gifts you can give yourself right now is to visualize a psychic healer (or your guardian angel) removing a load of mud and an old shoe from your body.

SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 21)
The experiment I'm proposing is something you should try only if you're feeling adventurous. Don't do it if you're in a timid or self-pitying mood. Here it is: empty yourself out completely, and do it gladly. With impish daring, lower your expectations all the way down to zero. Surrender every remnant of hope you might be tempted to cling to. With a jaunty nonchalance, pretend you have nothing to lose. And then open an enormous welcome in your heart for the messy, unpredictable sweetness of life exactly as it is. Say yes to the beauty of ambiguity and paradox. Free yourself to accept every person and every situation on its own terms. If you try what I've suggested, I bet you will be united with a potent blessing [illegible] know you needed.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22 - DEC 21)
Right now you have what it takes to be a liberator. You can free people who are enslaved to their fears. You could also be a bridge-builder who provides wandering souls with the means to escape from the middle of nowhere. If you're feeling especially heroic, you might even be able to serve as both a liberator and bridge builder. To do so would almost certainly require you to be more of a leader than you've ever been before. But if I'm reading the astrological omens correctly, you have more than enough cosmic juju at your disposal to do just that.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19)
"Dear Rob: In your book *PRONOIA*, you say, 'The universe always gives us exactly what we need, exactly when we need it.' I have a different view. I often find that I disagree with what the Universe decides is best for me. But that turns out to be a good thing. It's fun for me to always be arguing with God! I learn a lot and generate a lot of high energy from trying to outmaneuver the divine will. What do you think about that? —Cagey Capricorn." Dear Cagey: Whatever works! I think your approach may be especially useful for your fellow Capricorns to try now. Thanks for articulating it.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18)
I want to call your attention to the title of a Christian-themed inspiration book by John Ortberg: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.* You don't really need to read it, because simply meditating on the theme will yield all the insight you need. To jumpstart your intuition, I'll add a corollary: if you want to talk to a burning bush, you should initiate the conversation. Don't wait for the bush to break the ice.

PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20)
"Dear Rob: I love your compassionate contrarianism. Your horoscopes are so spiritual they're practical. They're so earthy they're cosmic. They're anti-hero horoscopes for heroes, or maybe heroic horoscopes for anti-heroes. Here's my question: Do you have any advice for my psychotherapist? You're doing a better job than he is, and I'd like to give him some tips from you. —Pisces Gamer." Dear Gamer: Tell your psychotherapist that what you Pisceans need these days is a dose of *reversalism*. That means you should experiment freely with seeing the other side of every story and tuning in to the opposite of what you've tried before.

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CLUBS/LECTURES

ARTS OUTREACH BIG BANDS MacEwan's Centre for the Arts (497-4303) • For musicians of all levels to play a variety of music • Tue or Wed (7:30-9:30pm)

AUTUMN BIRD WALK Emily Murphy Park (meet in first parking lot near the bridge) • Hosted by Dr. Jim Butler • Sun, Sept. 16 (10am-noon) • Free

AWA 12-STEP SUPPORT GROUP Braeside Presbyterian Church basement, N. door, 6 Bernard Dr, Bishop St, Sir Winston Churchill Ave, St. Albert • For adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families • Meet each Mon including holidays (7:30pm)

BLACKSPOT CAFÉ 15120a Stony Plain Road (481-7768) • All Day Casual Chess: all ages, all levels; Sept. 16 (2pm) • Monday's Doc-Night: *Everybody's Got to Learn Sometime*, discussion to follow, Sept. 17 (8pm)

BUDDHIST LECTURE–A PHILOSOPHY FOR LIVING SGI Culture Centre, 10711-107 Ave, 2nd Fl • Lecture followed by a question and answer discussion period • Wed, Sept. 19 (7-8pm) • Free

THE EDMONTON JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY Edmonton Room, Stanley A. Milner Library (479-1729) • *Mr Collins on Screen: A Comparative Study of the Ridiculous*, talk presented by Mary Chan • Sat, Sept. 22 (2-4pm) • Free

FAVA MASTER CLASS WITH DENNIS JACKSON Fava, Exhibition Suite, 2nd Fl, 9722-102 St • Dennis Jackson will discuss animation, stop-motion animation techniques and the history of the animated children's series *Wapos Bay* • Sat, Sept. 15 (3pm) • $5 (FAVA member)/$10 (non-member)

GREEN PARTY EDMONTON AREA MEETING Sprucewood Library meeting room, 11555-95 St, www.greenparty.ca • The Edmonton and area Green Party meets the 2nd Thu (7pm) each month • Thu, Sept. 13 (7pm)

HARM REDUCTION PUBLIC FORUM Stanley A. Milner Library Edmonton Room (downstairs), Churchill Sq (902-2736) • Find out about the future of harm reduction programs in Alberta with panel participants Libby Davies, Barbara Ross, Rosemary Fayant and others • Sept. 13 (1:30-3:30pm)

THE HEALTHY CEO Shaw Conference Centre (917-7899) • Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (Architecture, Engineering and Construction Cluster) presents speaker and author Dr. Larry Ohlhauser • Sept. 18

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB Roost, 10345-104 St (387-3343) • Crossdressers, transsexuals, friends and supporters meet the 2nd Thu (8pm) each month; http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions/

IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB Allendale School, 6415-106 St (469-8776) www.imagesab.ca • Meets the 2nd and 4th Thu (8pm) each month featuring presentations, speakers, workshops, outings. Photographers of all levels are welcome • $40 (membership)/$50 (family)/$20 (full-time student); visitors may attend three times before joining

LEADERS IN REHABILITATION: THE PERFECT STORM Shaw Conference Centre (735-7912) • Capital Health, Calgary Health Region and the University of Alberta are hosting this conference on the future of the rehabilitative healthcare sector • Sept. 13-15

MEDITATION • **Gaden Samten Ling Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Society**, 11403-101 St, www.gadensamtenling.org (479-0014) by Kushok Lobsang Dhamchoe; beginner Tue (7pm); intermediate Wed (7pm); advanced Sun (11am-1pm) • **Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization**, 208-10132-105 St (425-1050) www.bkwsu.org; Raja Yoga Meditation • **Tranquility Meditation Tibetan Tradition** 10502-70 Ave (633-6157) www.karmatashiling.org; Beginners welcome, instruction available; Wed (7pm); free

MEN'S TALK AND DO GROUPS (496-4777) • Tuesdays starting Sept. 18 (6:30-8:30pm) • Free

PARENT TALK (481-1292) Boys and Girls Clubs of Edmonton offers support groups and workshops for parents at various city locations

ROBERT LEMAY ART TALK Stanley A. Milner Theatre (downstairs, Edmonton Public Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square) • Free public lecture by Robert Lemay • Sept. 13 (7pm)

SELF ESTEEM SUPPORT GROUP (496-5930) • For women who are experiencing chaos as a result of a life crisis and who feel isolated • Group meets each week

SUNFLOWER LUNCHEON Fairmont Hotel MacDonald (413-8801) • In support of the Pilgrims Hospice Society featuring speaker Graham Hicks • $90 • Fri, Sept. 21 (11.30 champagne reception, 12 lunch)

TAR SANDS ACTION CAMP tarsandsactioncamp@gmail.com • A 3-day camp to learn the skills you need to stop this project and create the green energy revolution • Sept. 21-23 • $30-$50

TOASTMASTERS CLUBS • **Chamber Toastmasters Club:** Chamber of Commerce, 600, 9990 Jasper Ave (459-5206); Visit us and learn how to deliver effective presentations, conduct business meetings, and develop as a communicator and a leader, Thu (6pm) • **"N"orators:** Beverly United Church meeting room, 11919-40 St (476-6963) Improve speaking skills, leadership skills, time management, organizational, listening and social skills, Wed (7-9pm) • **Pursuers:** Best Western Cedar Park Inn, 5116 Gateway Boulevard (457-0808) Weekly meetings to improve your communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment; Wed (7-9pm) • **Chanticleer Toastmasters:** Kingsway Rm, Millard Health Building, 131 Airport Rd (498-4808/474-1138) Thu meetings (7-8:30am) feel confident speaking and build leadership skills

TOOLS FOR CHANGE–A PUPPET/MASK MAKING WORKSHOP mhudema@yic.greenpeace.org • Thu, Sept. 13 (6-9pm)

UFO'S AND INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE: WHO'S OUT THERE? TELUS World of Science, 11211-142 St (452-9100/cal451-3344) • Conference featuring a popular UFO experts; discussionS from a scientific perspective • Sept. 14-15 • $80

VISITING ARTISTS LECTURE MacEwan Centre for the Arts, Rm 203, 10045-156 St • Free public lecture and slide presentation by Rhonda Weppler and Trevor Mahovsky • Wed, Sept. 19 (12:30-2pm)

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION • (231-0732) Free guided hike, about 9 km at Miquelon South shore. Meet at 9am at the Bonnie Doon Recycle, 85 St, 85 Ave, Sun, Sept. 16 • Free guided hike, about 11 km at Blackfoot Lake area. Meet at 9am at the Bonnie Doon Recycle, 85 St, 85 Ave, Sun, Sept. 23

THE WAY OF THE RADICAL GREEN BUSINESS Village Lifestyles Awakening Humanity to a new way of living, 10429-79 Ave, www.tadhargrave.com/freeinfo • Fri, Sept. 14 (6-8pm) • Free

WOMEN IN BLACK In front of the Old Strathcona Farmers' Market • Silent vigil the 1st and 3rd Sat (10-11am) each month, stand in silence for a world without violence

WORD! SYMPOSIUM Muttart Hall, MacEwan Alberta College Campus, 10050 MacDonald Dr (420-1757) • Featuring talk, poetry, and performance; *Should've* (at the Timms Centre for the Arts) • Sept. 21-22 • $40 (full weekend pass)/$10 for each of the four sessions (Fri-Sat 10am-noon and 1:30-4pm) and the Word! Gala (Sat 8pm) • Tickets available at TIX on the Square

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE Remedy Café, 8631-109 St • 2nd Fri (5pm) each month • Discussion on education, looking at funding for public and private schools, and recent teachers strikes and the analyses of the budget; Fri, Sept. 14 (5-7pm)

THE STORY OF THE "Y" IN EDMONTON: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE YMCA Queen Alexandra School Gym, 7730-106 St (439-2797) • Story with Colin Hatcher and Bill Reese • Tue, Sept. 25 (7:30pm) • Free

QUEER LISTINGS

AFFIRM SUNNYBROOK–RED DEER Red Deer (403-347-6073) • Affirm welcome LGBTQ people and their friends, family, and allies, meet at Sunnybrook United Church the 2nd Tue (7pm) each month

AGAPE Faculty of Education, U of A Campus • Sex, sexual, gender differences in education and culture focus group • Contact Dr. Andre Grace (andre.grace@ualberta.ca) for info

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bwedmonton • Social group for bi-curious and bisexual women • 2nd Thu (7:30pm) each month

BOOTS AND SADDLES 10242-106 St (423-5014) • Large tavern with pool tables, restaurant, shows. Members only

BUDDYS NITE CLUB 11725B Jasper Ave (488-7736) • Open nightly 9pm-3am, Fri 8pm-3pm • Sun: Rotating drag shows with Mz Bianca and Mz Vanity Fair in The Stardust Lounge and GoDiva and Donnatella NE1 in The GoDonna Show, DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy • Mon: Amateur strip contest with Mia Fellow, midnight, DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy • Tue: Free pool and tourney, DJ Arrowchaser • Wed: Hump day with DJ Sexxxy Sean • Thu: Wet underwear contest with Mia Fellow, midnight, DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy • Fri: We made 'em famous! DJ Eddy Toonflash, come early to avoid lineup, no cover before 10pm • Sat: Undie night for men only, free pool and tourney, DJ Arrowchaser

DOWN UNDER MENS BATH HOUSE 12224 Jasper Ave (482-7960) • Open 24/7 • www.gayedmonton.com

EDMONTON MUSIC NIGHT • A mature social group, couples and singles welcome • E-mail edmontonmusicnight@hotmail.com for more info

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL Various locations downtown • Sept. 17-23 • most events free • Poetry Festival Launch at City Hall, Mon, Sept. 17 (noon)

EDMONTON PRIME TIMERS (EPT) Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 10804-119 St • A group of older gay men and their admirers who have common social interests meet the 2nd Sun (2:30pm) of most months for a social period, a short meeting and a guest speaker, discussion panel or a potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other social activities throughout the month. email edmontonpt@yahoo.ca, www.primetimersww.org/edmonton

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION www.edmontonrba.org • Monthly after business mixer. Network and share contacts in the GLBT business community • 2nd Wed each month

HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY 300, 11456 Jasper Ave (488-5742) or contact7@hivedmonton.com • Programs and support services for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS and related illnesses. Counselling, referrals, support groups, harm reduction, education, advocacy and public awareness campaigns

INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus • Campus-based organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified and queer (LGBTQ) faculty, graduate student, academic, straight allies and support staff • 3rd Thu each month (fall/winter terms): Speakers Series. Contact Kris (kwells@ualberta.ca)

LIVING POSITIVE 404, 10408-124 St, www.edmlivingpositive.ca (1-877-975-9448/488-5768) • Providing confidential peer support to people living with HIV • Tue (7-9pm): Support group • Daily drop-in, peer counselling

MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION Faculté St. Jean, 8406 Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 St) Rm 3-18 (490-7332) • Program for HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages • 3rd and 4th Sat (9am-5pm) each month • Free (member)/$10 (membership) • Pre-register

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm • Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching, beginners encouraged to participate. Socializing after practices • Every Tue, Thu

PFLAG Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave • Support meeting for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people • 1st Tue (7pm) each month • Information phone Ruby at 436-1998 after 6pm, or edmontonab@pflagcanada.ca

PRIDE CENTRE OF EDMONTON 9540-111 Ave (488-3234) • Open: Mon-Thu 1pm-10pm, Fri 3-10pm • Youth theatre project is developing a play to educate about and reduce homophobic bullying. It's a way for GLBTQ and straight identified youth to address the problem; no previous theatre experience needed. Meetings: Wed (7pm) at the Pride Centre, contact Emily (Emily@pridecentreofedmonton.org, 488-3234) for info • Bears Movie Night: Bears Club: last Sun each month (1-5pm, TV room) • Trans Education/Support Group: Support and education for transsexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited and questioning individuals; 1st, 3rd, last Sun (2-4pm) each month with Cody • Sunday Night Men's Discussion Group: Mens social and discussion group; Sun (7pm); Rob Wells at robwells780@hotmail.com • Friends and Family Playgroup: 2nd Sun (2-4pm) each month with Noelle, friendsandfamily-playgroup-owner@yahoogroups.ca • Monday Movie Night: Movie nights with themed movies and discussion afterwards; Mon • TTIQ Alliance: Support meeting for transgender, transsexual, intersex and questioning 2nd Tue each month; ttiqalliance@shaw.ca, 718-1412 • GLBT Seniors Drop-In: Thu (2-4pm) with Jeff Bovee, 488-3234 • Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Cocaine Anonymous meeting; Thu 7-8pm; CA Hotline 425-2715 • HIV Outreach: Drop-in circle every other Thu (7pm) • Youth Understanding Youth: Youth support and social group; Sat (7-9pm); yuy@shaw.ca; www.members.shaw.ca/yuy • Suit Up and Show Up–Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book Study; Sat (12-1); suitupshowup@hotmail.com • NDP LGBT Caucus: last Sun each month with Jay, 488-3234

THE ROOST 10345-104 St (426-3150) • Open Thu, Sun 8pm-3am; Fri Sat 8pm-4am; closed Mon, Tue, Wed • Thu: Thursdays are Gorgeous with Hostess Hootie McBoob, featuring Drag Kings and Queens, burlesque and amateur strip the last Thu each month • Fri: All Request Dance Party with DJ Jazzy rotating shows every week • Sat: Always like New Years Eve: with DJ Dan (retro) downstairs and DJ Jazzy (new music) upstairs • Sun: Flashback Sundays: Featuring hostesses Miss Bianca and Vanity Fair, rotating guests. Free pool all night long; $3 cover • Weekends: $4 (members)/$6 (non-member)/Sun $2 cover

SINGLE LESBIANS 40 PLUS • A woman's social group, gathers once a month on Sat for conversation over tea and coffee • Information e-mail: singlewomen40plus@hotmail.com

STEAMWORKS 11745 Jasper Ave (451-5554) • Steam baths open daily (24hrs)

WOMONSPACE (780-482-1794) • A non-profit lesbian organization, organized activities held monthly including licenced non-smoking dances, coffee houses, family events, games nights, golf tournaments and more • www.gaycanada.com/womonspace, e-mail: womonspace@gmail.com

WOODYS 11723 Jasper Ave (488-6557) • Open Daily (noon) • Sat-Tue Karaoke with Tizzy and Patrick • Sat-Sun Pool Tournaments

SPECIAL EVENTS

EAT CHOCOLATE FOR CHARITY–CELEBRITY BOX SOCIAL Fairmont Hotel MacDonald, 10065-100 St (420-1757) • Edmontonians will be auctioned off in support of Edmonton Meals on Wheels • Fri, Sept. 21 (7pm door, 7:30pm auction) • $50 at TIX on the Square

FALL BALL Dutch Canadian Centre, 13312-142 St • Waltzes, foxtrots, polkas, swing and Latin featuring the C-Jam Big Band • Fri, Sept. 21 (8pm-midnight) • $15 (door)

FIGHT CLUB BURLESQUE Prism Bar and Grill 10524 101 St • The Lascivious Burlesque troupe with the band Thrashtic Fibrosis • Sept. 22 (9pm) • $7 (adv) at Prism; $10 (door)

HARVEST FESTIVAL Cityfarm, www.city-farm.org (488-2500) • Farmer's market featuring live music by Chris Durand Three Little Birds (folk, reggae, blues) • Sat, Sept. 15 (12:30-4:30pm) • Admission by donation; free bus available from Belvedere LRT station and Evergreen Youth Centre

LEONARD COHEN NIGHT Myer Horowitz Theatre, U of A campus, 114 St, 89 Ave (420-1757) • Featuring Crystal Plamondon, Alice Major and others; Sat, Sept. 22 (8pm); $25 at TIX on the Square • City Hall; visual arts display until Sept. 21

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE South Plaza, City Hall (988-2713) • Fri, Sept. 21 (noon) • Free

NOTHING PERSONAL/NADA PERSONAL International Centre, U of A HUB Mall (414-1536) • Video and discussion on human rights violations of indigenous women and men in Peru • Tue, Sept. 25 (7pm) • Free, donations welcome

SPAY NEUTER ACTION PROGRAM Petsmart, 9934-170 St (968-0025/444-2382) • An adoption/fundraising blitz • Sept. 14, 15 (12-8pm); Sept. 16 (11am-6pm)

SUPERWALK FOR PARKINSON'S (482-8993) • Walk/fun run at 10:30am, registration at 8:30am with lunch, entertainment and prizes to follow • Sept. 22

TIBETAN BAZAAR Westmount Community Hall, 10970-127 St (479-0014) • Featuring items from India and Tibet • Sept. 22-23 (10am-5pm) • $5 (adult)/free (children under 12)

KARAOKE

BILLY BOB'S SPORTS BAR Continental Inn, Stony Plain Rd (484-7751) • Wed (8pm-12am); Thu, Fri, Sat (9:30pm-1:30am): with Right Said Ed

BLIND PIG 32 St. Anne Street, St Albert • Wed/Fri: Karaoke with Shelly

CASTLEDOWN'S P UB 16753-100 St • Tue (9pm-1am): with Off-Key Entertainment

CROWN AND ANCHOR 15277 Castledowns Rd (472-7696) • Thu (10:30pm) • Wed: Name that Tune

GAS PUMP 10166-114 St (488-4841) • Tue-Wed (9:30pm): Gord's Best Live Singing Show

HOOLIGANZ PUB 10704-124 St (452-1168) • Fri: Karaoke with krista, Liquid Entertainment

HAWKEYES TOO 10044-102 Street (421-9898) • Fri (8pm-midnight): Hot Karaoke Productions

KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH 19 Ave, 105 St (461-0587) • Fri-Sat (10pm-2am): Gord's Best Live Singing Show

LIONSHEAD PUB Coast Terrace Inn, 4440 Gateway Blvd (431-5815) • Sun (8pm): With Evolution Entertainment

MAZADAR 10725-104 Ave (429-4940) • Fri (5pm-late): Karaoke with Chris

MOJO'S Best Western Hotel, Fort Saskatchewan (998-7888) • Fri (9:30pm): with Sonia/Prosound Productions

NEWCASTLE PUB 6108-90 Ave (490-1999) • Thu: Karaoke

O'CONNOR'S IRISH PUB 9013-88 Ave (469-8165) • Thu (9pm): Name that Tune

ON THE ROCKS 11740 Jasper Ave (482-4767) • Karaoke Mon (9:30pm): with Wil Clark and Mr. Entertainment • Thu (9pm): Salsa Rocks

ORLANDO'S 1 15163-121 St (457-1649) • Wed/Thu/Sun (9:30pm-2am): with TLC Entertainment

OVERDRIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB 6401-104 St (988-5457) • Sat (9pm): Karaoke hosted by Jenny Joy

ROSARIOS 11715-108 Ave (447-4727) • Longest running Karaoke bar; 7 days a week

ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL • Downtown, 10604-101 St (423-3499) • Mon-Sat (9pm); Sun (7pm): with Ruth • Highstreet, 10315-124 St (482-1600); daily (9:30pm) • Old Strathcona, 10475-80 Ave (439-7211); Thu-Sat (9:30pm-1:30am) • 99 St, 63 Ave; Thu-Sat (9pm-1am): with Off-Key Entertainment

SPORTSWORLD INLINE AND ROLLER SKATING DISCO 13710-104 St (472-6336) • Tue, Fri-Sat (7pm-midnight); Sat-Sun (1-5pm)

YESTERDAY'S 112-205 Carnegie Dr, St. Albert (459-0295) • Thu (9:30pm-2am): with Off-Key Entertainment

It's Lesbian Sex 101 with Professor Tam and friends

LGBT

QUEERMONTON

TAMARA GORZALKA
tam@vueweekly.com

I didn't know what to write about for *Vue*'s annual Sex, Lust and Love issue, so I put out a call for queer sex queries. I'm definitely no expert in sex, but I do, uh, research quite well. Here, then, are some questions posed by my friends on the topic of non-straight sex, and my best attempts at answering them.

"How do lesbians have sex?"

There's a reason people ask this so often—they hope for an exciting, magic answer. The topic came up for me in grade 9 when I asked a group in my science class "Okay, how do lesbians have sex?" and the answers came quickly "Fingers!" "Tongues!" "Candy kisses!" "Candy kisses?" "It's this thing where you put skittles in-" "Never mind!" and soon it all made sense (well, except for the candy thing). Lesbian sex isn't mysterious— it's like any other kind of sex, only limited by what you and your partner(s) can think up and agree upon.

The basics though, because there are some, include mutual masturbation, for starters. I've never found the technical term particularly accurate: at least to me, masturbation is something you do on your own, sometimes with someone else, but it's not something that another person can do to you—if anyone's fingers are all up in or on you, that ain't masturbation.

Less ambiguous is cunnilingus. Oral sex has a lot of fun names: eating out, muff diving, carpet munching and going down. Whatever you call it, this act refers to stimulation of genitalia with the mouth. (Incidentally, I was recently introduced to the word anilingus which, not surprisingly, refers to stimulation of a partner's bum—you know, rimming.)

Then there are toys. Any device designed to stimulate sexual pleasure can be considered a sex toy. Some things you might find in a lesbian's treasure box or sock drawer are vibrators, nipple clamps, dildos, strap-ons and a few thousand other possibilities. There's a common assumption that a strap-on—a phallus attached to a harness then worn usually on the crotch and used to penetrate a partner—is vital in the sex life of all lesbians and while many girls enjoy using them, many don't.

Girls who get with girls also get into tribadism. Sometimes known as scissoring, tribbing is when a women rubs her vulva against her partner. This can be through direct genital-to-genital contact or between one person's genitals and various body parts of their partner. Both the Scissor Sisters and Tribe 8 are bands named after this sex act.

Frottage is similar to tribadism, but can be done clothed and does not have to include direct genital stimulation. Gay or straight, most people engage in some form of this during foreplay. More common terms include dry humping and grinding.

It's important to remember that a happy and healthy relationship can involve all or none of these things; the possibilities are endless. Discuss boundaries with your partner, what they enjoy and what constitutes sex for them. Protecting yourself, safe sex and frequent check-ups are just as important for lesbians as they are for everybody else.

"I hear that lesbian sex is not always sweet and tender, that most of the time it's rough and aggressive."

Lesbian sex isn't anything "most of the time." The only thing it has in common is multiple vaginas and a few pairs of titties. Like all sexual acts and expressions of intimacy, each is unique. Sometimes it's aggressive, sometimes it's tender. Most couples tend to fluctuate between both. It's also important to remember that sex can be sweet and aggressive or tender and rough or anything in between.

"I wouldn't know what to do if I had the chance to sleep with a girl. Do I re-enact a porn video?"

Short answer? No! Dear god, no! "Lesbians" in mainstream porn are about the worst people you could ever learn from. As with all pornography, the sex being had on-screen is very unlike what occurs in most people's bedrooms, as the acts have been altered to show up better on film. Real girls don't usually have sex without kissing, go down on each other from a foot away, enjoy fellating dildos, have boobs you could float to Hawaii on or have those long nails. Oh man, those nails…

There are other places to turn. Some conventional movies have included decent love scenes. Admittedly, in most cases it's usually all soft touching of thighs and a slowly panning camera, but some exist. For research, my girlfriend and I sat down last night to watch the sex scenes in all the lesbian movies I own. The love scenes in *Better Than Chocolate* are pretty realistic, but my all, time favourite is *Bound*: the second love scene is the most realistic display of sex between two girls I've seen on screen. *Saving Face, Loving Annabelle* and *If These Walls Could Talk 2* don't show much sex but do a better job of all that pre-sex groping, furtive and impassioned instead of lamely tame.

There are a lot of lesbian sex guides out there but the technical descriptions aren't particularly helpful in the real world. Erotic stories or non-erotica with detailed sex scenes can teach a lot, but it's possible for writing to be burdened by the same problems as porn movies: more salacious than realistic. My suggestion is finding stories written by actual lesbians; someone I know learnt all their technique from online fan-fiction. Keep in mind that, as lesbians, we're lucky—we already have an idea of what feels good. When in doubt, masturbate!

"One word: scissoring. Us straight girls are lost—at least this one is."

Well I do love rescuing straight girls. As I briefly covered earlier, scissoring refers to a specific position while performing tribadism. Still confused? Form a V with your index and middle fingers on both hands. Lock both Vs together at the base of your fingers. Pretend the fingers are legs and where they meet is a vagina. Now flail them about. Get it now? ▼

ADS! CLASSIFIEDS

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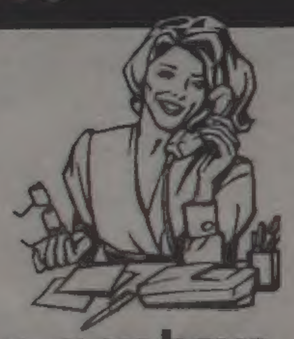

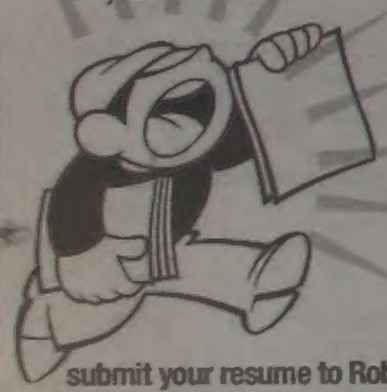

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Call for donations: 2007 fundraiser. Looking for small and medium sized artworks. **Submit by Nov. 3,** at VAAA Gallery. For info call 421-1731.

Juried photography exhibition: **Deadline: Feb. 4,** 2008 for exhibition: May 29-June 14, 2008 at TU Gallery. Ph 421-1731 for info.

Call to Enter: **ArtsHab Studio Gallery** features guest artists. Incl: proposal; 10 slides/photos; CV; artist statement. For info Ph Tim 423-2966

Portrait photographer at Wolf photography starting limited portrait series on people in their 30s. The studio has limited space available. Session is free, for info contact darren@wolfphoto.ca

Robert Lemay art talk: the Alberta Society of Artists and Edmonton Public Library present a free public lecture by Robert Lemay, **Thu, Sept. 13**, 7pm at the Stanley A. Milner Theatre (downstairs), 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

MUSICIANS

SALL GIBSON - Indie Folk Rock Singer Songwriter seeks band members for local and touring project. www.sallgibson.com

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VOLUNTEER

Volunteer for **AIDS Walk for Life: Sun, Sept 23,** City Hall. 3-mail voltoo@hivedmonton.com, Ph 488-5742, ext 227 for info.

Edmonton Poetry Festival Sept. 17-23, 2007 call for Volunteers. For info: www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com; e-mail: poetry_volunteer@hotmail.com

The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) is recruiting for its 2007-2008 term membership! We are looking for youth aged 13-23, residents in the City of Edmonton and interested in being involved in civic youth issues. www.ceyc.ca, Info: Jennifer 496-4938, E: Jennifer.Wong@edmonton.ca.

ElderCare Edmonton needs volunteers to help with our daily programs that assist seniors to remain independent and active in their communities. For a few hours each week, volunteers can help with lunch and coffee breaks and socialize with clients. Please call 434-4747 Ext. 4 to volunteer

Become a friend to a new Canadian and share a life-changing experience. Contact Dulari at 474-8554

Volunteers Needed to work with new immigrants in a variety of tasks and with some great fun events and outings! Many exciting shifts available! Call Judy 424-3545, ext 249

The Friends of the Edmonton Public Library needs volunteers for 1-2 Saturday's/month or Thu evening to help with preparations for the 2007 fall book sale **Sept. 22-23**

Mentors for children/youth 7-17 years old who have child welfare status or developmental disabilities, and are living in group care. 2 hrs/wk for 6 months. Various locations. Ph Ellen @ 432-1137, ext 362

Love to Sew? A sewing volunteer is needed to sew curtains and other simple projects for a south side group home serving children. Materials provided. Ph Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362

Canadian Mental Health Association/Board Members Required. To learn more about CMHA visit: www.cmha-edmonton.ab.ca

Volunteer yoga instructor needed for Strathcona Place Senior Citizen Centre. For info phone Rita Mittelsteadt, 433-5807

Love Bingo? Come Volunteer at ElderCare Edmonton. Help raise funds for programs, meals and outings. Call 434-4747, ext. 4

"Let's Go!" is a program which helps newcomers learn about their community and Canadian culture. Volunteers needed for the summer months only. Lots of Fun! Contact Judy 424-3545, ext. 249

Volunteer at ElderCare, help with crafts, card games and socializing. Edmonton's day programs for seniors. Call 434-4747, ext 4

Volunteer Kitchen Help and Drivers Need for Edmonton Meals on Wheels. Varied jobs, flexible hours 10am-1pm weekdays. Phone 429-2020

Initiative Ambassadeurs pour la Paix is looking for francophone volunteers. Come learn how to present interactive workshops on antiracism/cultural diversity. Karina at (780) 425-4644 ext 9 or kczyzewski@naam.org

Volunteer teachers needed to teach English as a second language to newcomers to Canada. Orientation and training provided. Meet people from all around the world. Jason: jmarkowsky@cci-lex.ca or 944-0792

Volunteers needed to assist new immigrants with shopping. Mornings, weekdays. Approx. 2-4 hrs. "On Call" position. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249

Have you ever thought of volunteering with your pet? Pet therapy is a great way to help those in our community. Call Deanna at 413-4682

Become a distress line volunteer. The Support Network, 732-6648. www.thesupportnetwork.com

CANADIAN LIVER FOUNDATION is looking for enthusiastic volunteers for presentations and special events. Call Carmen at 444-1547

Volunteers, enjoy working in our **dining room at Strathcona Place Senior Centre,** for more info phone Terrie Shaw at 433-5807

Volunteers required to help Somali newcomer children with their homework. Somali language an asset but not required. Starting again in Sept. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249

Volunteers required to help Somali newcomer children with their homework. Somali language an asset but not required. Starting again in Sept. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249

Teach an adult to read and write. We are always looking for tutors in your area. **The Centre for Family Literacy** 421-7323, www.famlit.ca

Volunteer Drivers needed for the Seniors Volunteer Driving Centre, 2-3 hrs Mon-Fri. Ph Anna 732-1221

ElderCare Edmonton needs volunteers to help with daily activities such as crafts, card games and socializing. For info ph 434-4747, ext. 4

CNIB is looking for volunteers with vision, adults (50+) to help seniors with vision loss. For more info call Catherine 453-8304

Volunteers needed to teach conversational ESL to adult immigrants at various library locations. 1-2 days/week,10-12pm or 1-3pm.(dep. on location) No exp. req. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249

HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS required for research studies with the Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA. Must be in good health, not be taking any medication for mental health issues, and not abuse drugs or alcohol. Ph 407-3775/407-3221

The Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals who may be suffering from **DEPRESSION** to be involved in a research study. Must be in good health, and not abuse drugs or alcohol. Ph 407-3221 for more info

Love Bingo? Volunteer for ElderCare Edmonton. Bingo volunteers needed to help raise funds for programs. Ph. 434-4747, ext. 4

Volunteers needed to teach English to adult immigrants. Daytime, weekdays,or evenings for 2-3

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Appropriately, Vue sex issue concludes with weirdest threesome ever

ADVICE

ALT.SEX.COLUMN

ANDREA NEMERSON
altsex@altsexcolumn.com

DEAR ANDREA

My wife and I are the proud parents of an eight-month-old boy. While I was prepared for the postpartum lull in the bedroom, I was not at all prepared for the combination of sex and nursing.

My wife has gotten really into attachment parenting and co-sleeping and it took me a while to get comfortable with having sex with him in the bed, but, generally, my appreciation for the rare opportunity always ends up outweighing any discomfort. However, the last two times we've had sex, he has awakened in the middle of things, and rather than stopping, my wife has just put him to her breast and said to go ahead with things on my end. I'm REALLY not comfortable sharing my wife with my son in this way. And, frankly, no matter how much she moans and sighs, I just don't think she can be that into it when her attention is divided like that!

When I've brought up my concerns, she accuses me of not having his best interests at heart and points me to all of the attachment parenting literature about how not responding to his needs will hurt his neurological and emotional development. I don't want to hurt my son, but I also don't want to sleep with a vending machine. You're a mom now—am I being a jerk?

LOVE,
MARRIED TO THE LUNCH LADY

DEAR LUNCH

Your wife has not so much adopted attachment parenting as she has, I wager, been assimilated by the Ubermamas, a leaderless cult whose hive mind is headquartered at the Mothering Dot Commune Internet forums. It is fashionable in that milieu not only to parent children to within an inch of their lives but to view husbands the way a lady mantis might describe her views on marriage and partnership, if asked: good for one job only, a job easily performed without thought or decision-making privileges (or, indeed, a head).

Dude, you must reclaim your head and put a stop to this, if not for yourself then for your son! What sort of model of manhood is this for him?

ACTUALLY, HE'LL BE FINE. It's you I worry about. You must know that attachment parenting does not even require that you adopt what is optimistically known as the "family bed" (often, in practice, a "mommy and baby while daddy sleeps on the couch" bed), let alone the abomination that is "Oh, carry on, don't mind him stuck on my tit, here." All shock and revulsion at the actual act aside (about which more in a minute), you must realize that "go ahead with things on my end" means that there's nothing going on over on her end.

I'm sure there are readers who will spaz out over the child abuse aspect but I assure you there is none. This isn't about sexualizing the child, it's about desexualizing *you*. You will soon find yourself consigned to at best the couch and at worst someone else's couch.

If nobody's ready to have the baby sleep in his own room yet (I am not a huge fan of banishing baby, myself) then get a side-sleeper or a dresser drawer or *something* and let him snooze away peacefully in there while you and your wife snuggle or sleep or do other things starting with S. Speaking of which, this is Serious.

Now as for what your wife may be feeling, I confess to oversimplifying in an earlier column when I denied that suckling can ever feel anything like, well, suckling. Of course it can. Not only are the sensations superficially similar (although I don't advise partners to do the weird rhythmic press-and-swallow thing while making a fishy-mouth face, not sexy), we have only so many physiological responses available to us.

Nursing can feel good, and it releases the same hormones that sex—or, rather, having had sex—does. I'd even venture to say that the release of good feelings (mostly hormonal/emotional but to some extent physical as well) is adaptive, evolutionarily speaking. Then I'd say that that's all very well but we have evolved pretty far and we can keep these things separate and I heartily encourage us to do so. More later.

LOVE,
ANDREA

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Cassandra: Hot Hungarian brunette; 36C-26-36; 25 yrs: tight, toned, tanned; super fun; call for availability; 965-4968.

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Chrissy: Sexy hot Italian w/jet black hair; very busty; 23; ask her about special; call for availability; 441-1330.

Mee-Ling: 20 yr old Asian; great body; loves to pamper; no rush service; a delicate oriental gem; call for availability; 965-4968.

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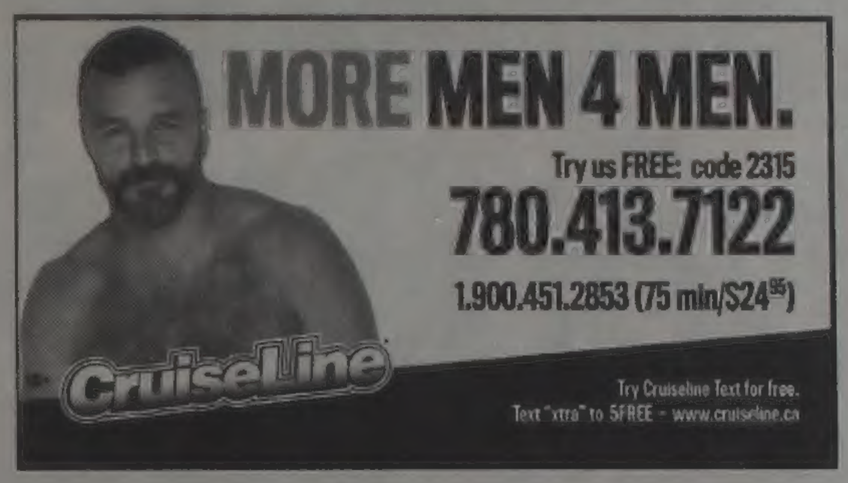

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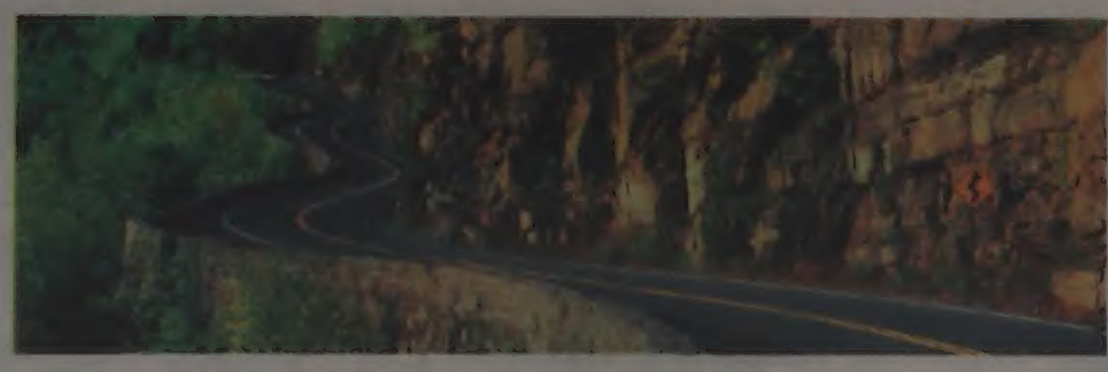

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